

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I [Redacted] state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [Redacted], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted], from August 2009 until December 2010.
2. I was 21 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I had just completed nursing school and I wanted to use my knowledge of health to help people with limited access to healthcare.
4. Before I was placed in [Redacted], the Peace Corps did not provide information that I remember about sexual assault in the Peace Corps.
5. Three months after I arrived in [Redacted], I was sexually assaulted in broad daylight, in the middle of town, while sober, wearing a full-length skirt, on my way to buy lunch during the work day.
6. After the assault, the same man was stalking me and harassing me on a regular basis and I believed my life was in danger. I went to the police on my own twice before involving Peace Corps, but they were no help. I called my APCD as a last resort, but she told me it probably wasn't a big deal, that I should not worry, and to talk to my counterpart.
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by calling my APCD. Because she minimized my concerns and took no action, I thought Peace Corps didn't care and wasn't going to help me, so I continued to try to deal with the man on my own. After a couple more months I called the Safety and Security Officer, and he came to my site to investigate. He reported the man to the police, but the door of my house was broken down the following week and I was robbed, so I had to switch sites.
8. The Peace Corps responded by minimizing my concerns and telling me to deal with it on my own.
9. The Peace Corps did not take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. It was not until my house was broken into that the Country Director and the other APCD believed that I actually was in danger.

10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. They explained that most women who prosecute are not successful, it's more trouble than it's worth, and it could just put me in more danger.
11. The Peace Corps did react appropriately when I finally got in touch with the Safety and Security officer, but the initial conversation I had when reporting to my APCD was not appropriate; I was saying that I was in danger, and she did not express concern and did not report the incident to other Peace Corps staff or authorities.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. Because the safety training in PST put blame on the victim of crimes by saying that if you greet people and dress appropriately, nothing bad will happen, other PCVs and [REDACTED] co-workers of my friends accused me of dressing provocatively, being drunk, and not greeting people enough. All of these accusations were completely untrue, and this made me feel unsupported by everyone I knew in county, including my fellow PCVs.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps did not contact me at all.
15. I tried to receive healthcare services in the US by using the 127c forms, but the process has been very frustrating and confusing. All services rendered have been charged to me multiple times because Peace Corps can't figure out how to work with providers to sort out their own billing problems.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had sent someone to my site immediately when I called for help and said that I was not safe. I also wish they had allowed me to go stay with another volunteer until they were able to find a new site for me. I was homeless for two months while I did not have a site, and in addition to forbidding me from staying with my boyfriend (also a PCV) who I felt safe around, my APCD demanded that I work while staying with other volunteers, which was generally not possible because I was only staying in one place for a couple nights before moving again. My APCD had no empathy for what it is like to not feel safe and to not have a place to call home.
17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that they require sexual assault training for all staff so they know how to respond appropriately when someone calls to report an incident. I also wish Peace Corps would fire staff who have repeatedly failed to support volunteers even after they have been retrained so they will not continue to put volunteers into dangerous situations unsupported.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: May 16, 2011

Signed: [REDACTED]

Dear Casey,

I am a returned peace corps volunteer who has been battling PTSD, depression and cognitive changes due to the assault I experienced while volunteering in [REDACTED] in 2009. I was attacked - single severe blunt force trauma to the head that could have taken my life only a month before the volunteer in [REDACTED] was violently ripped from this earth.

I knew my town was unsafe. The site had been closed for 8 years due to volume of incidents that occurred there. My home did not meet safety requirements and no site visit was ever conducted. My local 'contact' and guide turned out to be a doctor convicted of sexual assaulting his patients. Peace corps simply told me to stay away from him. He was the only doctor in the clinic where I was posted to work. On my first day at the clinic he called me into his office and molested a patient in front of me. I called to report, several times. My calls were never returned.

On New Years day 2009, I woke up at 5am opened my door to let in cool air and began fixing breakfast. When I turned around, there was a man behind me who pushed me against the wall and was insisting that I 'sex him'. He was wobbly and drunk so I pushed him roughly out the door and locked myself inside. I proceeded to call EVERY number that I had begging for help, begging to get permission to leave my site and see a friend until something could be done. No one answered. I had only been at site for less than 2 months and the policy stated I could not leave my site without permission or be sent home. The next day, the man returned to my house. I called and called, when someone finally answered they told me to wait until after the holidays to file a report and discuss a move to a different house in the same village. I begged to leave. They told me no.

The man came back every morning. I barely left my house. On January 4, 2009 two female PCVs came through my town on their way home from a trip. They were to stay with me that night. We decided to get out of the house and go down the street for dinner and a beer. On our way back to my house I was attacked from behind. The man crawled on top of my unconscious body. One girl responded by calling for help, the other shot toward the man and knocked him over. Startled he ran away.

They never did an MRI. Only a cat scan. They never did any cognitive testing. While still in shock and with compromised executive functioning (inability to plan or understand danger) I was cleared and sent back to [REDACTED]. At that time, the country was in conflict. I arrived at the airport, no memory of the language, no language books, no Malagasy money, no airtime, and no one was at the airport to pick me up. The office was closed due to riots in town. After standing there in tears for nearly an hour, I managed to get airtime from a kind stranger and called a fellow PCV. She contacted a PCMO and someone was sent to pick me up. The next morning, the embassy announced mandatory evacuation of all US citizens.

I want to join you. I have been working on my own site to be launched in about a month to provide access to resources to anyone in similar field to PC (PCVs are not the only ones who lack support). But I want to advocate. I want to join you.

I have attached my resume, so that you can get a better picture of my qualifications and strengths. I have been quiet for too long. I was a victim of childhood sexual abuse, abused repeatedly at the age of 3 until the man was arrested. The staff knew of my history, and left me with only one contact in my town-a convicted sex offender. I have to bike past the PC headquarters in DC every day on my way to work, during my darkest days it took all of my self control not to walk into the office and scream at them for what they did to me. I want to ensure that others do not have their lives altered forever due to their desire to facilitate positive change in the world.

Thank you for your time.

Redacted

Hi my name is [Redacted] and I was a PCV in [Redacted] from November 2009 to June 2010. I was sexually assaulted during my service. The worst part of my experience was how Peace Corps responded. I am still not over it completely.

After the incident, I held in the capital of [Redacted] for 4 days before they could med-evac me to [Redacted]. During that time, it was painfully obvious to me that Peace Corps [Redacted] had absolutely no idea what to do. For some reason, I had expected prompt medical care, counseling, and legal aid but received none. It wasn't until the Department of Secret Services got involved that I was subjected to a rape kit and given PEP, Plan B, and my blood taken.

During those long four days in the capital I had severe PTSD. I told my PCMO I was having flash-backs and could not sleep. The only counseling offered was a call from Tim [Redacted] a PC counselor in Washington. I talked to him and mentioned my symptoms, but felt like he couldn't really do anything for me while I was still in country. My lasting feelings on this time were that Peace Corps [Redacted] did not have the proper training to deal with a sexual assault victim and that my experience would have been exceedingly better had I had a PCMO who knew what they were doing and a security officer who was not a host country national. The reasoning behind having security officers who are not host country nationals is because in [Redacted], rape is not seen as a crime, and it is very common to hear about someone being raped, so much so that it does not cause alarm in most [Redacted]. Therefore when you call your security officer, who does not understand that sexual assaults need immediate attention, more harm can be caused.

During my time in [Redacted], I saw [Redacted], the regional health coordinator for [Redacted]. He also had no idea what to do. He told me I would have to see a host country therapist. I politely refused because I felt that a host country national would not understand my condition. In the end, I was told "it was non-negotiable" and ended up seeing Mrs. Linda, psychologist twice where upon she falsely diagnosed me with Bipolar disorder (I would not find out about this diagnosis until much later). During my stay in [Redacted] I was told I could not sleep alone. I was given sleeping pills by the psychologist even though I told her I did not want them. I was issued host country nurses during the day which turned out to be more of a job for me than anything. I had to use my per diem to feed them! I was told that it was a direct order from Washington that I had to sleep at the [Redacted] Country Director's house. I was very confused by all of this.

Finally after 4 days in [Redacted], I was med-evac'd to Washington. I was called to the hq the following day by my new counselor Tim. I had spoke to him twice while in [Redacted] and I thought he seemed like a nice person. I was sent to get a psych-eval by Dr. Perman who I felt incredibly uncomfortable with. I don't know why Peace Corps Washington sent me to two male health professionals after being sexually assaulted. I would have liked to have seen a female therapist, especially one with sexual assault training but was told there wasn't one. The following week, I was told that Tim didn't want to see me anymore so I would be seeing a new therapist, Annemarie. Annemarie was the first person who I felt helped me since my sexual assault. She told me that I was being medically separated that week and that she would try to find out why. I remember sobbing my eyes out for what seemed like the 100th time wishing I hadn't told PC about my sexual assault. I felt like I was being blamed and that I was being looked at like some horrible person who was wasting their time. It was a very traumatic time for me.

I was med-sept that day, about a week and a half after I had touched down. I asked my nurse why I was med-sept but she said she couldn't give me any reason. I then called the Dept of the Secret Service from her desk and told an agent who had previously talked to me in [REDACTED] about what was happening. The agent then talked to my nurse. My nurse then talked to her supervisor and instantly I was unmed-sept. I was told I could continue to stay as long as I followed the rules. I felt like the whole instance had been very condescending.

I stayed the whole 45 days in Washington. During that time I learned from Dr. Perman that before I even came into the country, PC had asked him to evaluate me for Bipolar disorder since the [REDACTED] psychologist had diagnosed me as being in a manic stage. He told me (and later PC) that I did not have bipolar disorder that I was suffering from acute PTSD and was doing well with recovery. He then gave me a clean bill of health and told me I could go back if PC [REDACTED] would have me. However, I was never asked by PC Washington if I wanted to go back to country, I felt like they wanted to get rid of me from the moment I arrived there.

The whole experience with PC as a sexual-assault victim was horrible to say the least. I felt that I never received proper treatment. Upon being med-sept (for PTSD) I was awarded with 10 free therapy sessions. I never talked to my APCD or CD about leaving. I felt like it was so abrupt and unfair to my village and my school and mostly me.

The worst thing is that this could easily be fixed. If we had PCMOs who were trained on sexual assault prevention and treatment, if we had security officers who were American, if we had committees and groups for female pcvs to talk about the dangers of being a woman in these countries where every 17 seconds a woman is raped, then I feel like PC would be safer. Peace Corps should have at least one person in country that take female volunteer's concerns about feeling safe seriously. PC Washington needs an overhaul if you ask me. I felt very unwelcome from the day I stepped onto the 5th floor med-evac headquarters. During my time in Washington I met other female pcv who were there for other reasons but had been sexually assaulted in country and had opted not to tell Peace Corps because of horror stories they had heard of the responses peace corps had had. I guess I am just another horror story.

I am now trying to get over the depression of readjusting back into American life but I everyday I want to go back to [REDACTED]. I feel like that's where I belong. I do wish I had never told PC about my assault which should NEVER be the case for a victim trying to be a survivor.

I hope this was helpful.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
Redacted

RPCV [REDACTED] 09-10

ANONYMOUS

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, **Redacted**, state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. My name is **Redacted**, and I have been a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted**, from May 2010 until present/May 2012.
2. I was 24 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to serve my country and my world in a positive way.
4. Before I was placed in **Redacted**, the Peace Corps gave little to no information or warning about sexual assault during service. Statistics were vague; recruiters denied its prevalence. Before **Redacted** I was given no training regarding sexual assault safety.
5. Exactly 4 months after I arrived in **Redacted**, I was date raped by a fellow volunteer at a Fourth of July party.
6. After the assault, I was interrogated by a federal investigator THEN received counseling in the United States for six weeks before returning to service.
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by calling a Peace Corps Medical Officer.
8. The Peace Corps responded by seeing to my medical evacuation and care, but without punishing the perpetrating volunteer in any way. To this day, I hear various stories about him drinking heavily at volunteer gatherings around women PCV's who have not been warned about his history.
9. The Peace Corps did and did not take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. While an investigation was conducted, I have never been privvy to its results. Further, I was interrogated while under extreme distress. I was experiencing acute symptoms of documented PTSD and was unable to accurately represent or defend myself. The perpetrator's record with the Peace Corps does not indicate that this incident occurred, nor the severity of the event.
10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. The Peace Corps seemed to defend or dismiss my attacker because admitting his crime would be a liability against them. Further, there was

no support in prosecuting him in [Redacted] or American courts of law—only discouragement and the implied threat of my service being disrupted or discontinued.

11. The Peace Corps did not ensure that I was in a place of stable psychological health before submitting me to an interrogation in which I was made to feel like the perpetrator. Further, they did not address the crime another PCV committed, either in a court of law or within disciplinary measures within the organization. His history makes him unsafe as a representative of the US government continually surrounded by vulnerable host country nationals and other PCV's. The Peace Corps continues to actively endanger those who are unwittingly put in vulnerable situations with him.
12. Peace Corps gave me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me: I was encouraged by my country director NOT to tell fellow volunteers or too many friends and family in the United States.
13. I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps AFTER THREATENING THE DIRECTOR OF PEACE CORPS, AARON WILLIAMS, WITH LEGAL ACTION.
14. The Peace Corps assured me that my counseling in the United States on Medical Evacuation would be covered by their insurance and I filled out the paperwork. Now, six months later, the Peace Corps still has not reimbursed me for over \$2500 in bills for counseling.
15. I wish the Peace Corps had dismissed the perpetrator from his service and reimbursed me for my medical costs associated with the incident. Additionally, I wish that the Peace Corps had provided me with accurate information about what to expect, what my rights were, and the history of past events immediately after the incident occurred. Further, I wish that the Peace Corps had not subjected me to highly damaging interrogation without providing counseling first. I also wish that I had been afforded a PCV or 3rd party advocate immediately following the event, when I was at my most psychologically vulnerable and was subjected to manipulation and implied threats by PC staff.
16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask them to cooperate with First Response Action and comply with their extremely reasonable and earnest requests for improvement in preventing and coping with sexual assault in the Peace Corps.

I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 2-18-2011

Signed: [Redacted]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [Redacted], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [Redacted], and I have been a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted], from August 2009 until the present.
2. I was 22 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I loved serving abroad and wanted to make a career out of it.
4. Before I was placed in [Redacted], the Peace Corps provided no training in sexual assault safety, we received some information about how to support volunteers that are raped but that was it.
5. For the first six months of my service I was stationed at a rural village near [Redacted]. [Redacted], my organization was one of those briefcase organizations with a supervisor that was nonexistent. After six months Peace Corps decided to give me a site change to an international organization based in [Redacted] called the [Redacted]. They had tried to place a volunteer there two years ago but the housing was not complete and the volunteer complained about being harassed by one of her co-workers. The housing for The [Redacted] was at one of their epicenters about a forty minute drive away from the office, with no electricity, no cell phone reception, and no neighbors for miles in every direction. Previously, Peace Corps had refused to put a volunteer there due to the isolation and had required that they find a neighbor to live with the volunteer, the hunger project was supposed to find someone to live by me but was unable to. With my housing not ready peace corps asked me to move into my organization's office in [Redacted]. The office was small, had four rooms, two which were occupied by two males working for the organization. The room was small and with a bathroom outside the room. I initially got along with my male colleagues, and did not mind sharing a house with them. The trouble started when they started bringing back to the office/house young girls. As I lived close to them I could constantly hear the sounds they made at night. They started pestering me as well, asking me to come to their rooms at night, asking to share my bed. One of them consistently asked me to find him a white woman to have black/white Obama babies with. They also touched me pretty regularly, not in an obviously sexual way, just occasionally slipping their hand on my thigh, or touching my breasts or butt. They would also knock on my door late at night, and sometimes burst in, pretending it was an accident. Another one of the men who worked at the organization but did not live at the office began pestering me as well. He was married but on a daily basis asked me to sleep with him, to go to hotels with him. It made me uncomfortable but not unbearably. It finally escalated one day when me and this man were alone in the office, it was the same old routine of him asking me why I didn't love him, why I wouldn't sleep with him. I was exhausted

with it, and told him to stop it, and that I would never love him or sleep with him. He looked at me, lowering his face he growled that: it wasn't up to me, he would come into my bedroom at night and force me to love him, force me to have sex with him, he would put magic in my food, that would make me love him, it wasn't up to me.

After that I told Peace Corps nurses but wasn't ready to tell peace corps staff, I didn't have the best relationship with staff due to my site change, and didn't really feel comfortable telling them. I told my boss at the hunger project who confided in me that the men there were pigs and that they did the same stuff with her, but they were just joking and i should just let it go. It got worse. The man who told me he was going to rape me would stand outside my door at night or outside my bathroom during the day. I also did not have a key to the office, there was a shared key that I could use, which unfortunately the man was in charge of, it was supposed to be left in a secret hiding place outside when the office was locked up so that everyone could have access to it. Countless time this man would remove the key and take it with him, leaving me locked outside of the office, sometimes until late at night. I would have to call him to return the key, he would taunt me on the phone, and show up hours later. He also started locking me inside the office when nobody else was there, so that I would be trapped inside.

6. I eventually reported the incident to the Peace Corps by calling my APCD [Redacted] [Redacted].
7. When I called my APCD to report what was happening she was sympathetic but told me to come in to the office in a month. I told her that I did not feel safe continuing to live in the office and that I would have to move to a hotel (which I paid for out of my own pocket). My APCD never reported it to anyone else. When I went in a month later to speak to my APCD about the situation she blamed it on me saying that I had first liked living in the office, so I must have done something to make their behavior change. She also refused the possibility of giving me a site change and told me I would have to go back to site. She said that I should talk to my CD about it because he knew the situation and would agree with her. When I talked to my CD about it he told me that he actually had never heard what was going on with me, and that another volunteer who was concerned about my safety had just told him about it. I was leaving for the states at that point for a month and he promised me a site change when I returned... though when I got back it took another two months to find a new site. I did not feel that my APCDs response was sympathetic, adequate or timely.
8. The Peace Corps did not take action to document that a crime had been committed against me.
9. The Peace Corps did not bring up the possibility of taking legal action against my harassers.

10. The Peace Corps did not take any significant steps to help me. I wish they would have offered to pay for the hotel, offered me the option of counseling, or have been more supportive.
11. I wish the Peace Corps staff had reported my incident, helped me sooner, given me another option besides moving into a hotel for a month.
12. I once read (and I don't remember where) that if a government employee reports a sexual assault incident to a supervisor and the supervisor does not report it or take any sort of action then the supervisor would be dismissed from their position. Why was my supervisor never reprimanded for not reporting my incident?

I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 19, 2011

Signed: [Redacted]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, **Redacted**, state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I would like to remain anonymous. My name or country assignment may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. My name is **Redacted**, and I am a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted** from August 2009 until October 2011.
2. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to do something meaningful. I also wanted an adventure and a change of pace from my normal lifestyle in the states.
4. Before I was placed in **Redacted**, the Peace Corps did an adequate job of informing us of the risks of **Redacted**. However, during training I had heard a rumor that they were underreporting statistics. They made it clear from the beginning that if something happened to us, it was because of choices we made.
5. 14 months after I arrived in **Redacted**, I was sexually assaulted by a 15 year old male that I frequently mentored. He was the cousin of my boyfriend of 1.5 years. He came to my door at about 10:00 pm, stating he was too drunk to make the hour walk home and asked if he could crash on my couch. I gave him some water and told him he could stay here until he sobered up, but then he would need to go home. It was late and I had been coaching volleyball all day, so I went into my room to lie down and rest, unintentionally falling asleep. When I awoke, he was on top of me, attempting to take off my shirt. I screamed as he was pulling my shirt over my head. He put his hands down my pants and I started kicking. It took me about 30 seconds to get him off of me. I punched him in the lip and told him to get out. He did.

I did not sleep that night. Thankfully my sister (from the States) was on Skype, so I was able to speak with her. She told me to go talk to my boyfriend's family as soon as morning came. (My boyfriend was out of the country at the time). The next morning I walked to their village and spoke with the people I considered family about what the boy had done to me. They acted like I was crazy. They defended his actions and told me to go home. I was crushed. I felt like I had no one to turn to and no one that would understand.

That night I contacted our Safety and Security officer explaining vaguely what had happened. I said that I really needed someone to talk to. It was 2 weeks before I heard anything from Peace Corps.

6. 2 weeks after the assault, our PCMO contacted me asking me if I needed any medical attention. I said no, because I had handled things on my own over the course of the two weeks. I would later request a counseling session, of which I received one.
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by email.
8. The Peace Corps responded by calling me 2 weeks after I reported it. They asked me the details of the assault. A week after that, they called me saying that I would be put on probation and a behavioral contract. They were very clear by stating that it was my actions that warranted this assault.
9. I am not sure if The Peace Corps took action to document that a crime had been committed against me.
10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. This was not even discussed as an option.
11. The Peace Corps did provide a counseling session with a counselor in Washington, which I found helpful. She helped me work through the guilt I was feeling over the whole thing.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me.
13. I am able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. I wish the Peace Corps had given me support. I felt very guilty, ashamed and alone after this incident. I turned to the Peace Corps for support.
15. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask: what would you have done in my situation?

I, **Redacted**, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: February 16, 2011

Signed: **Redacted**

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [Redacted] state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted] sworn in October 2010. I left country in February 2011.
2. I was 25 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to do development work, and I thought that Peace Corps Volunteers did development work in the right way, by spending two years integrating into a community.
4. During training in [Redacted] the Peace Corps provided information on previous years' crime statistics within Peace Corps countries and in Peace Corps [Redacted]. We were shown a video of three Peace Corps Volunteers who were survivors of assault. All three Peace Corps Volunteers had been drinking, and it seemed to us trainees that the video was blaming the victims. A few assault scenarios from the past in the [Redacted] were described to the trainees. Peace Corps advised us to avoid assault and other crimes by not walking alone at night, by not taking public transit after 7 p.m., and by integrating into our communities and host families. There was no talk of strategies or warnings about how to avoid assault by someone who is also a member of your community and your host family.
5. Six months after I arrived in the [Redacted] I was raped in my community at 8 p.m. by the man I was dating, who was related to my host father and best friends with my host brother. We had consensual sex the first time, and the second time, he raped me.
6. The morning after the assault (12 hours after), I called the Peace Corps Medical Officer. I would have called her immediately after it happened, but I did not have cell phone signal in my house; I had to go up a hill to get cell phone signal. The Peace Corps Medical Officer responded to my description of the event by asking me questions about when I had last had sex, how old was the man, was the man large, and some other questions. To my answers to her questions, she responded with the following lines: "Maybe it got to his head," "He's so young," "Maybe he didn't mean it," "It's been a long time since you had sex," and "He sounded like he was a nice guy." She did not realize I had been raped. She asked me if I thought I had been raped, and I was in denial. She asked me if I

wanted to go to a Peace Corps three- month training happening that day or come to the capital. Given the choice, I chose to go to the training. She gave me medical advice to take care of my physical wounds, and said she was worried about my mental health, but let me go to the training. I was not offered a rape kit or told not to shower.

Forty hours after the assault, I called the Peace Corps Medical Officer again, extremely upset, and asked to come to the capital. She said that she had just told to the Country Director what happened, after consulting that morning with more than one person of Peace Corps Washington as to whether my case was a rape. She told me they said, "Support her as if she were a rape victim." Which to me, is slightly different from saying it was rape, and I was a rape victim.

I was located a three-hour drive from the capital at the training. The Peace Corps Medical Officer and Country Director said they would send a Peace Corps driver for me. They did not send a driver for me at the time of the phone call, 1 p.m., which was already 41 hours after the assault. Instead, they asked if it would be all right if they sent a driver a couple hours later in the day. The driver arrived at 6 p.m. to pick me up from the training, and we arrived in the capital around 10 p.m. that night, 50 hours after the assault. I was to stay in a hotel room by myself. The Peace Corps Medical Officer met me at the hotel, comforted me as I was very upset, and left.

The following morning, 2.5 days after the assault, I went to the medical office and was examined by the Peace Corps Medical Officer. She did not do rape kit tests; we filled out the incident report form that appears in the rape kit. It had been 61 hours since the rape, and I had showered, changed my clothes, and brushed my teeth. A condom was used during the rape, so it was decided there was no DNA evidence to be collected. In the courts of the [Redacted] a forensic doctor's opinion holds more sway than any other doctor. I was given the opportunity to see a forensic doctor more than 61 hours after I was raped, not within an acceptable time frame. I declined to see the forensic doctor because I did not want to report the incident to the police at that time (a necessity in order to see a forensic doctor in the [Redacted]).

I spent the whole of that day in the medical office extremely upset. I remember crying all day. I spoke with both that Peace Corps Medical Officer (referred to here as Peace Corps Medical Officer Number One) and the other Peace Corps Medical Officer (Number Two), since I was there all day. I left to see a psychologist from an office outside of Peace Corps, who did not evaluate me for Acute Stress Reaction. I spent that night alone in a hotel room again. I did not sleep at all. At 4 a.m. in the morning, 3.5 days after the assault, a very violent image of a gun in my face with a single shot fire at me appeared. Immediately after the gun, an image of a razor appeared to me. I was extremely scared and upset, and I called the Peace Corps Medical Officer (Number One). She talked to

me for a long time on the phone, and tried to calm me down. We hung up the call and I called her back five minutes later, saying I could not be alone at that time. I was afraid I might hurt myself. She came and picked me up from the hotel about twenty minutes later, and we went to the medical office at 5 a.m.

Again, I spent the whole day of that day extremely upset in the medical office. I remember crying all day again and asking to be medically evacuated. I cried a lot. Peace Corps Medical Officer Number Two suggested that I see a psychiatrist, at an office outside of Peace Corps. I thought that was a good idea. I was finally offered a friend companion to come stay with me for comfort and support, and she arrived in that afternoon, four days after the assault. I also talked to a psychologist on the phone from Peace Corps Washington that afternoon. As Peace Corps Medical Officer Number One was setting up a hotel room for my friend and me to stay in, I did not feel safe. I was very afraid of the images of a gun and a razor I had seen, and I was afraid I might hurt myself. I expressed that I wanted to stay somewhere else. Neither Peace Corps Medical Officer Number One nor Peace Corps Medical Officer Number Two suggested hospitalization to me. Before leaving the medical office, I asked Peace Corps Medical Officer Number One if I could see a psychiatrist outside Peace Corps as suggested by Peace Corps Medical Officer Number Two, so Peace Corps Medical Officer Number One confirmed that the outside psychiatrist was still in his office.

It was decided by Peace Corps Washington that same afternoon, four days after the assault, to medically evacuate me the following Monday, seven days after the assault for Mood Disorder. It was decided that once I got to Washington, D.C., I was going to be admitted inpatient to a mental health unit. I saw the psychiatrist from an office outside Peace Corps in the [Redacted] that same evening, four days after the assault. He told me I needed to be in the hospital, and *why didn't Peace Corps admit me to a hospital immediately if I were being admitted to a hospital the following Monday in Washington, D.C.?* I agreed with him that I needed to be in a hospital, and I was admitted to a hospital in country that evening.

Peace Corps Medical Officer Number One and a psychologist from the office outside Peace Corps met me at the hospital. My friend stayed with me in my hospital room the whole time I was in the hospital in country, and her company was a great comfort to me. Peace Corps Medical Officer Number Two visited me in the hospital. Peace Corps Medical Officer Number Two, who had more training in sexual assault response said to me in the hospital that she had wanted to hospitalize me, but that I was not "her patient." There had been a disagreement between the two Peace Corps Medical Officers as to whether to hospitalize me, and I was not hospitalized by Peace Corps; I was hospitalized by the psychiatrist from an office outside Peace Corps.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by calling the Peace Corps Medical Officer in country.
8. The Peace Corps responded by not treating me as a sexual assault survivor when I first called. I felt later as if I were being blamed for my communication to the Peace Corps Medical Officer over the phone and for being in denial that it was indeed rape. I feel that different questions should have been asked, and that the wrong things were said to me on the phone call. Peace Corps did offer timely medical attention, but did not make it seem serious that I accept it. Peace Corps did not offer a rape kit or a forensic doctor in a timely manner. Peace Corps did not send a driver in a timely manner when I did want medical attention later. Peace Corps did not hospitalize me in country after two extremely frightening images appeared to me; instead, an outside psychiatrist hospitalized me.
9. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. I was hysterical, and I was asked to write an incident report for the Safety and Security Officer in country. I was not able to write about it at that time. A week after the assault, in the hospital, I dictated the incident report to a friend who wrote it down, and I sent the written report to the Safety and Security Officer in country.
10. The Peace Corps has provided me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. However, the Peace Corps did not offer me a rape kit in a timely manner and I was not told not to shower. This ended up not making a difference in my case.
11. The Peace Corps did not report the assault to other Peace Corps Volunteers in country because "he was not a direct threat to other Peace Corps Volunteers" and because of medical confidentiality. I am concerned that there is not a way for Peace Corps Volunteers already in country to be updated in a timely manner on assault statistics as they change over time.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Returning to the United States, I flew to Washington, D.C. with the Peace Corps Medical Officer. Two members of Peace Corps and my parents met us at the airport. I was hospitalized in Washington, D.C. seven days after the assault. Peace Corps contracted a psychologist and a psychiatrist to see me daily while in the hospital. The psychiatrist diagnosed me with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Fifteen days after the assault, I was told that Peace Corps was going to medically separate me for PTSD when I left the hospital. I was very unstable, very depressed, very unsupported, and very upset when I heard this. I believe this decision showed a lack of support for me as a survivor of sexual assault and a Peace Corps Volunteer. My mother, who was visiting me, had a flight home, so Peace Corps also made my flight for the same day as hers. Peace Corps said they would medically separate me the same day I was discharged from the hospital. My discharge date originally was supposed to be fifteen days after the assault, and my flight home was seventeen days after the assault. Peace Corps was planning on not making arrangements for me to stay in Washington, D.C. until my flight home. However, because of my instability, I was not discharged until the morning of my flight, so this issue did not come to pass. The Peace Corps- contracted psychologist and psychiatrist recommended that I see a psychiatrist for medication management and a therapist for counseling. I believe this recommendation represents inadequate discharge planning on the part of these Peace Corps- contracted employees for the following reason.

I was unstable, and I felt that I needed more support than seeing a psychiatrist and a therapist weekly. I approached hospital social work staff about what other options were available to me. The social work staff recommended a Partial Hospitalization Program which is outpatient daily group mental health treatment. A hospital social worker referred me to a program near my home. I was very happy to be referred to a daily program, since I was so unstable. One concerning thing about the situation was that hospital staff told me that they normally leave discharge planning of Peace Corps Volunteers up to Peace Corps. I told the hospital staff that I was not receiving the support I needed, so the hospital staff helped me.

I did not have any appointments with a therapist, psychiatrist, or with the Partial Hospitalization Program near my home the day I was discharged, which caused me a lot of anxiety. I made an appointment with the Partial Hospitalization Program only after I was discharged from the hospital in Washington, D.C., but it was one week out. I also *did not know how the Partial Hospitalization Program would be paid for when I started the program*, which also caused me a lot of anxiety. Peace Corps told me that it would be paid for through Worker's Compensation, but my claim had just been filed and had not been processed at that time. *The only reason* I was able to start the program at the time of my appointment was because I was unemployed and under-insured and I qualified for a health insurance program through the hospital. Two weeks into the program, in response to my complaints, Peace Corps retroactively reinstated me to Peace Corps Volunteer status in order for Peace Corps to pay for the program, since my Worker's Compensation claim still had not been processed. I did not receive proper follow up care assistance from Peace Corps, but I did receive it when I asked from the hospital in Washington, D.C. Peace Corps also did not assist with payment for follow up care in a timely manner.

I spoke to the Quality Improvement Nurse in the Office of Medical Services on two occasions, and she responded to my concerns over my medical treatment in the following way. I told her my whole story, and when I told her about the Peace Corps Medical Officer's initial response when I made the call, the Quality Improvement Nurse told me that the Peace Corps Medical Officer would never do that again, that she probably just wanted me to be okay, and that she didn't realize I had been raped. The Quality Improvement Nurse was essentially validating what the Peace Corps Medical Officer did, which I feel was not to treat me as I should have been treated. I was very upset after speaking with the Quality Improvement Nurse.

Peace Corps never gave me a copy of or directed my attention to their newly-written "Commitment to Victims of Sexual Assault," which I read on the website. I feel that some Peace Corps staff member's words and actions and some Peace Corps organizational decisions that were made did not hold true to this commitment.

15. The Peace Corps took responsibility for helping me obtain the benefits I needed to recover while I was a Peace Corps Volunteer, although it was not always done in a timely manner. After I was medically separated from Peace Corps, Peace Corps referred me to the Office of Worker's Compensation, which is difficult to navigate. I went through a lot of paperwork and phone calls to get my medical care and prescriptions covered.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had offered advice, training, and warnings as to how to avoid being assaulted by a member of your host family or community. I wish the Peace Corps Medical Officer had not helped me deny the assault and had not made the event seem like it wasn't serious. I wish I had received medical attention and the opportunity to see a forensic doctor earlier. I wish the Peace Corps Medical Officer had done the rape kit earlier. I wish Peace Corps had hospitalized me in country, once they had decided to hospitalize me in the United States. (Instead, a psychiatrist outside Peace Corps hospitalized me in country). I wish Peace Corps had helped me with better discharge planning from my inpatient hospitalization in Washington, D.C. I wish Peace Corps had not medically separated me at a very vulnerable moment. I wish Peace Corps had had a method of payment for me to seek immediate medical attention after leaving inpatient hospitalization. I wish Peace Corps had reported the assault to Peace Corps Volunteers serving in country.
17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask for Peace Corps to radically change and enhance the training that Peace Corps Medical Officers receive. Peace Corps Medical Officers with Doctor of Medicine degrees from different countries may not have the training to respond to a sexual assault as a United States emergency room would respond, which is what Peace Corps says is the expected standard of care. Peace Corps Medical Officers should receive training in sexual assault response from experts in the mental health field. Also, it

should be made clear that responding to sexual assault is part of the expectations and job descriptions of Peace Corps Medical Officers, so that it is clear when they apply for the job that responding to a sexual assault is part of the job of being a Peace Corps Medical Officer.

I, Redacted declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 04/19/2011

Signed: Redacted

Peace Corps Volunteer Affidavit

I, [Redacted], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

My name is [Redacted] and I am a volunteer in [Redacted], from April 2009 until July 2011. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to help the world. I thought that this program would help me learn about working in an international setting and lead me to a future career in international development. Before I was placed in [Redacted], the Peace Corps provided me one day of sexual assault training. Including the watching of a rape video that was mostly set in Africa and a short speech about things that could put someone in a dangerous position.

Six months after I arrived in [Redacted], I was visiting a friend's site. I went out with her to a local café, where we met her counterpart's son and his friends. He was intoxicated. When we decided to go home- the man came to walk with us- since his house (and his mothers) was right next door to my friend. He came in with us and my friend went next door to talk to her counterpart. While she was gone, this man proceeded to pin me to the bed and sexually assault me. I was lucky to get free and run for help.

After the assault I called the PCM (Peace Corps Medical Officer) for help, and he had me come to the capital. While I was there I had an exam, talked to the doctor and stayed for around 4 days in the office. The safety and security officer called me, asked if I wanted to press charges. He advised me against it- since it had created problems in the past. He then called my friend to see if she felt in danger.

I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by calling the medical officer, and through safety and security officer. They documented the crime, but for the office, not the police.

The Peace Corps told me that I could prosecute my attacker- however I was strongly discouraged. They said because of the way that rape is defined in this country, and how in the past rape charges had ruined Peace Corps relationships with communities.

The Peace Corps (medical doctor) allowed me to get in contact with a psychologist in the states- who worked in the Washington DC office. However this man only spoke with me twice after the incident- and at one point said, "well I guess we learned our lesson, didn't we?" while talking about my experience. After that, I began to have anxiety attacks and travel issues caused by the attack, and when I asked to be put in touch with this man, once again he called me once or twice and then stopped keeping in contact. At this point, I stopped trying to contact him.

Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. My parents still don't know, and I don't know if I will ever be able to tell them.

I will be able to finish my assignment with Peace Corps.

I have asked about what will happen when I get back to the states, because I would like to be provided with at least some therapy sessions. I was told that every RPCV is allowed three free counseling sessions for readjustment. But then it goes to Workers Compensation, which is very hard to claim.

I wish the Peace Corps had supported me. Instead of having me call Washington a few times, I wish they had tried harder to let me know they are behind me and that I would be okay. I work so hard to do my job, to make my country hard and to help people- yet I felt abandoned by the people who put me out here. I wish that the Peace Corps had set up more counseling sessions, and with someone in my country. I wish Peace Corps had spoken to the man and counterpart at the site that it happened in, to defend me. I wish the Peace Corps had provided me with a psychologist who did not make me feel like I needed to find "the lesson" from my assault. I wish the Peace Corps had had resources for other survivors so that I didn't have to do their job for them. But those were wishes- who knows if they will come true.

If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask- please don't allow any other women like me to feel so alone and abandoned. Do your job, protect us. We are working hard to be examples of the hard working, resilient American spirit, and it is Peace Corps duty to defend us and protect us when we are victims of circumstances beyond our control.

I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 3, 2011

Signed: [Redacted]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [REDACTED], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED] followed by a transfer to [REDACTED], from 23 August 2010 until the present.
2. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted the opportunity to experience another culture without constantly feeling like a tourist. All the people that I've known or met who joined the Peace Corps were people who I tended to like, and many of the Peace Corps tenets such as promoting Peace and Friendship are beliefs that I grew up with and have strongly believed for the entirety of my life. After college, it seemed like ideal timing to experience something like the Peace Corps.
4. Before I was placed in [REDACTED], the Peace Corps provided some training involving Sexual Assault and response to it. I certainly wouldn't call it comprehensive, and some of it was insulting. The video that was used was incredibly outdated and all the women featured had been heavily using alcohol prior to their assaults. This left the feeling among most volunteers, myself included, that the Peace Corps was trying to promote the idea that volunteers are often in some way culpable for what happens to them. There also wasn't nearly enough discussion about how to report an incident and the security of doing so. Yes. Everyone knows who to call, but there are constantly people who are under the impression (perhaps due to the video shown) that speaking up means you run the risk of being sent home. There was never a frank discussion of just how common sexual assaults are. There was no training in basic self defense. There was no followup after we were placed on our actual islands (in the Eastern Caribbean you go through the first week of PST with volunteers from several countries before moving to your own island) or island specific information given.
5. On 28 December 2010, less than four months after I arrived in [REDACTED], I returned to my apartment

at 6:30pm after having gone with another PCV to pick up her friend from the airport. I tried to turn on the television, but something seemed to be wrong with it, so I went upstairs to my landlady's house and asked for help. She and her two children came down to try to help me and soon called a middle aged male friend to come over as they were unable to fix it. He wasn't able to make any headway either, and at about 9:30pm they all left. At this time I closed and locked my front door, the only door in the apartment.

I remained in the house for the rest of the evening, confining myself to the main room. Off this large room that holds the kitchen, dining room, and living room is a doorway that leads straight back to the bathroom with a bedroom on either side. My activities consisted of chatting with friends online and watching videos on youtube.

At about 2:30am, I decided that it was high time I went to sleep. I wasn't particularly concerned with the hour as we were all on Christmas vacation, but I was beginning to feel tired so I closed and locked the burglar bars on my door and headed toward my bedroom where I took off my clothing to put on my pajamas.

Suddenly, the light in my bedroom turned off. I turned around, halfway into my nightgown, to see a man standing in my bedroom doorway. He was naked aside from a bandana he wore over his hair and was brandishing a knife with a blade at least 6 inches long.

Immediately, he moved toward me and I began to scream. He shoved me backward onto my bed and closed his hand around my throat. I kept screaming and kicking at him as he tried to climb on top of me. My only thoughts were to make sure the knife remained as far from me as possible and to keep him from doing what he clearly had come to do.

I was finally able to kick him off me and he staggered backward. I stood up and, taking a step away from him toward the door screamed, "Get out! Get out of my house!"

He began to move toward one of my bedroom windows and I didn't waste any time. I ran out of the bedroom, pulling my nightgown over my head as I went.

I grabbed my only knife for protection and the keys from the table as I continued to scream for help. My landlady had heard me screaming and began to yell my name, telling me to come upstairs.

I fumbled with the lock on the burglar bars, terrified that this man was going to emerge to come after me again before I was able to open the door and run upstairs to safety.

When the police arrived (it took them 30 minutes to complete a 3 minute drive), they looked around the property. It was discovered that the man had accessed the property through a hole in the fence created when a breadfruit tree fell on it some time ago. He had also been peering through my bathroom window by standing on a bucket.

In terms of how he got inside and where he was, things became more frightening. In my apartment, all the windows had burglar bars. One of them was an emergency exit and was secured in place with a padlock. The man had picked the padlock and gained access to my house through my bedroom

window. It was also clear that he had chosen the shower as his hiding spot and had been there for an unknown period of time. As I had been in the house since 6:30pm, it's likely he had been there since before that.

Additionally, 2 days before the assault, the family dog had mysteriously died. It was only about a year and a half old and hadn't shown any signs of illness. It is common practice for thieves to poison dogs, so the assumption is that the dog was poisoned in preparation for the attack.

The man was someone that I knew in passing. I would walk by the place he sat with friends on my way to work. One day, he had made an inappropriate comment to me, telling me that he would come by my house later to teach me some "Vincy exercises" that I would really like. This was a few weeks before the attack and I had begun to take the van (public transportation) more frequently to avoid any repeat of this line of conversation.

I was incredibly fortunate in my assault. I was targeted and brutally attacked by a man wielding a deadly weapon, but was able to escape physically unharmed. That being said, I am certainly emotionally traumatized. Following the incident, I was unable to sleep alone in my house. I finally asked to be transferred to another [REDACTED] and was moved to [REDACTED] on 7 March 2011 where I currently reside as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

6. After the assault I notified my APCD and my PCMO as well as my safety and security officer. My PCMO came by in the morning after the incident and acted as a conduit for me to speak with other Peace Corps staff. He also offered to be on the phone with me when I spoke with my parents about what had happened.

My safety and security officer, Simone Skinner, was absolutely wonderful. She is actually the person who helped to facilitate my move to [REDACTED] and has been incredibly open and transparent about Peace Corps statistics in the [REDACTED]. Through her, I learned that on [REDACTED], there were 12 reported volunteer incidents in 2010. There are only about 22 volunteers at any one time on the island, and there is approximately a 25% underreporting figure to go along with that. Most of those 12 incidents involved home invasions.

My PCMO at the time, Marina St Rose, listened to everything that had happened to me when I called her and ended the conversation by saying "and remind me who I'm speaking to again?" This was fairly insulting and didn't create any faith in her as someone to go to for support. She is no longer in the employ of the Peace Corps.

Our new PCMO, Jeremy Larson, was absolutely wonderful. He continues to call me and e-mail me to check up on everything that happened and ask me how things are going. He put me in touch with a counselor in DC who I was able to talk to.

In relation to counseling, however, I spoke with an absolutely phenomenal counselor named Anmarie. She was immensely helpful, and hugely qualified. About a month and a half after I started speaking with her weekly, however, she called me to tell me that, due to budget cuts, Peace Corps Washington had laid off their executive counselors.

I was floored. I had been making really good progress with a wonderful counselor only to have that option ripped out from under me? These layoffs happened, by the way, in the aftermath of the 20/20 segment and I would have thought that, in light of this media storm, that these would have been the last people Peace Corps would have let go.

Additionally, after the 20/20 segment aired, I was given less than 24 hours notice and flown to [REDACTED] so Simone could go to [REDACTED] to make sure that things were safe for me and that the man who had been arrested didn't have any gang affiliations. This would have been something that might have been beneficial immediately following the incident, but this was 3 weeks later and was simply more disruptive than anything else.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by contacting my APCD, speaking with my CD, PCMO, and Safety and Security officer, and writing a detailed report of the incident which was then submitted to Washington.
8. The Peace Corps responded very sympathetically. I was not blamed for my attack in any way and when I did ask for specific assistance it was given to me. The only untimely incident was being flown to [REDACTED] which is detailed in #5
9. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. They made sure that I was in contact with the police and that a Peace Corps representative spoke with the officers in charge of the case. They also made sure that I had written a report within a week after the incident occurred.
10. The trial date is April 14th. If I were still on [REDACTED], I know that I would have had a great deal of support in the trial. Now that I am on [REDACTED], however, it is unclear as to whether I'm going to be flown back for the trial.
11. The Peace Corps did provide me with safety and security assurance. I think that this is more to do with the safety and security officer here than anything else. She is truly wonderful and seems to have the volunteers best interests at heart.
12. Peace Corps gave me little guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. Some people were very coy about telling me what to say to people. There was not any push to even alert other volunteers that an incident had occurred, something that I think they should have been aware of on such a small island. There were times when it almost seemed that they didn't want me to say anything. This was never overtly stated, but it was the overall impression that I received. I, however, chose to make sure that the other volunteers knew.

If something like this has to happen, the least I can do is to ensure that it's a learning experience.

13. I am continuing to try to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. I wish the Peace Corps had been more hasty in their response before the 20/20 segment aired. I feel that, had it not aired a couple weeks after the assault, things would not have been handled as comprehensively as they were and that I would have chosen to terminate my service and would be back home in Massachusetts right now. It shouldn't take horrifically bad press for a well respected government organization to do its job and protect its volunteers.
15. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask for greater transparency surrounding sexually related crimes against volunteers. People have a right to know all the facts, not just that these things do happen, but numbers and statistics applicable to their country. These are statistics that should be included prior to volunteers accepting invitations. We did not sign up for the military. We signed up for the Peace Corps. And while there is a risk that we all agree to take by doing so, no one should be allowed to blindly enter a situation that may have negative physical and psychological ramifications for the rest of their lives.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 15 March 2011

Signed: [REDACTED]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [REDACTED], and I was a Peace Corps Response volunteer in [REDACTED] from January 2008 to January 2009 and in [REDACTED] from January 2010 to February 2011.
2. I was 30 years old when I joined Peace Corps Response [REDACTED] and 32 years old when I joined Peace Corps Response [REDACTED].
3. I chose to join Peace Corps Response because I had enjoyed my time in the Peace Corps and wanted to continue to help people in Africa.
4. Before I was placed in [REDACTED] and later [REDACTED], Peace Corps Response gave me very little information about sexual assault. All I recall was the standard welcome book blurb about avoiding dark places alone at night.
5. Two months after I arrived at site in [REDACTED], a coworker, Adamson, began sexually harassing me, saying things like he would leave his wife to marry me, he wanted me to love him, and I should move my desk to his office. I ignored him or told him to leave me alone and was told by female coworkers that he behaved that way toward women in general. Later that same month, he took my hand in one conversation and put his hand on my shoulder in another, but while I was annoyed by the actions and told him not to touch me, I did not see them as sexual. The next month, I had to go to his office to see his office-mate. In front of his wife, Adamson told me my sarong was ugly and forcibly tried to take it off me. I fought back and after I left, I reported to Peace Corps.

Three months after I arrived in [REDACTED], the principal of my school, Benjamin, escorted me home after returning from [REDACTED] together and eating dinner with his family. At first we talked about Physics, but then he hugged me and tried to force me to kiss him. I managed to get away and convince him to leave without either of us becoming violent. It was the first time he had shown any romantic interest in me to my knowledge, though he had hugged me one other time when I was sick.
6. Nothing was done immediately in [REDACTED] but two months later, my APCD advised me to write a letter to my supervisor at site to inform him of the situation, which I did. He spoke to Adamson, who admitted everything, and informed him that if he so much as spoke to me again, my letter would be forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government. Adamson left me alone after that. Soon after, the Ministry investigated Adamson for what might have been embezzlement, but the rumor around the office was that my letter had triggered the investigation. My other coworkers never said anything overtly, but I sensed that they thought less of me first for reporting him and later for being glad when the investigation led to

his transfer to another district (I made no secret about wanting him fired instead, but at least he was gone). I received no official counseling either in Malawi or after I returned to the States for this event, but I was sick for much of the latter part of [REDACTED]. I don't know whether my poor health was related to being assaulted.

After the assault in Uganda, I was in shock for about the first 12 hours. I locked my door and went to bed with [REDACTED]. The next morning I texted some PCRV friends. Later, I went to the house of the regional volunteer leader, who introduced me to another PCV who had also been sexually assaulted during her service. The next day, a PCV friend from my training group came to see me. He and the volunteer leader sat with me while I told the volunteer leader's APCD, who was there on site visit, what had happened. She sent the Peace Corps driver and my friend with me to my house to pack my possessions and bring them to the volunteer leader's house until I was given a new site. My friend then escorted me to Kampala to meet with the SSO, PCMO, and other relevant staff and to write my report.

7. I reported the incident to Peace Corps [REDACTED] by contacting the Peace Corps Response Coordinator, who then contacted the Safety and Security Officer (SSO) and the Peace Corps Medical Officer (PCMO). The SSO asked me to write an incident report the next time I was in Lilongwe and I believe the Country Director saw that report.

I reported the incident to Peace Corps [REDACTED] indirectly. As I said above, I reported to the volunteer leader for my area, who was with me when we told her APCD. I feel strongly that if the volunteer leader and my friend had not been present, pushing for immediate action on my behalf, I would have been in my house, and possibly in danger, for several more days before anything was done. Once I got to [REDACTED], I met with several Peace Corps staff, both individually and in groups, and they gave me permission to travel with my friend to visit PCVs in another region entirely so I could escape for a bit.

8. Peace Corps [REDACTED] responded by having me see the PCMO once, but no other medical action was taken, even counseling, despite the fact that I was in contact with them for minor illnesses for the next two months.

Peace Corps [REDACTED] removed me from site immediately and took a month to place me somewhere else. I started counseling at my request about four months later, which I continued until I left [REDACTED].

9. Peace Corps [REDACTED] took action to document that a crime had been committed against me. They asked me to write an incident report immediately and later asked me to write a letter to my site supervisor, which I also gave to my APCD. I was told that if Adamson assaulted me again, that letter would be forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government.

Peace Corps [REDACTED] had me write only one report, a variation of the standard incident report, which was either forwarded to or summarized for the Ministry of Education and Sports – I was never explicitly told which, but knew the Ministry would be told. I also requested that Peace Corps [REDACTED] share my experience with Volunteer Service Overseas, which places volunteers at the same school, but cannot confirm that that was done.

10. Peace Corps in both [REDACTED] did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. Beyond the accounts I was asked to write, they felt that it was best if the Ministries for which the attackers worked decided what action should be taken.
11. Peace Corps [REDACTED] did act quickly once I contacted them to make sure I was safe, but I wish there had been something in training to (1) help me feel more comfortable telling them and (2) prepare me for the protocol of who needs to know and what will happen when one does contact them. Shortly after I called the PCR Coordinator, a PCMO called me, which was fine, but I would have liked to know that would happen. They mentioned briefly receiving counseling in country, but past experience with counseling in [REDACTED] during my regular service made me reluctant to pursue that. Counseling out of country (or in DC) was not given as an option. Also, in retrospect, I think a lot of my sickness in the months after the assault may have been in part connected to the assault, but the PCMOs never followed up on that and at the time I thought I was just sick from some unidentified pathogen.

Peace Corps [REDACTED] did remove me from site quickly, partly because I refused to go back except to pack my things and partly because my friends were with me to advocate on my behalf. The Country Director and my APCD sat down with me together to discuss what I wanted and what I was willing to do. Soon after I submitted my report, they contacted the Ministry to arrange my transfer to another school. I did not like that when my APCD asked me to write the report, she requested that I add in anything that might have been or led to cultural misunderstandings – as if it was my fault I was assaulted, when I did not know the culture well enough to answer anyway. The PCMO offered to send me to DC for counseling if I needed it (I declined) and arranged for me to receive counseling in country when I was ready, which helped me a lot.
12. Peace Corps in both countries gave me minimal guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. I actually feel that they were less comfortable about me sharing my experience than I was and they generally encouraged me to only tell people in government and Peace Corps who needed to know and remain quiet about it to anyone else. Instead, I told most of the volunteers I knew as well as my family back home, who told everyone they knew. People I hardly know still come up to me to say they are sorry about what happened to me in [REDACTED] and the local university has asked if I will speak publicly about it.

13. I was able to complete my assignment with both Peace Corps [REDACTED] and Peace Corps [REDACTED].
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps did not provide me with any further assistance.
15. I wish Peace Corps [REDACTED] had given me the option of counseling out of country. I also wish they would have considered what I did not until much later: if Adamson could assault me once, what was to stop him from assaulting me again, and more violently? Aside from [REDACTED], I was not given the option of leaving site for a while, yet staying with a friend at their site might have helped me a lot just then.

I wish Peace Corps [REDACTED] had warned me in training how prevalent sexual assault is in [REDACTED] and had given me tools and skills to protect myself before I got to site. I wish I had felt free to contact them without having to be talked into it by another volunteer. I wish in my conversation with my APCD, she had spoken with me in a way that I did not feel I was under attack. I wish Peace Corps had let me know that it's okay to tell my story if that's what I need to do to heal.

16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask why has it taken so long for the organization to acknowledge that volunteers need proper support when they are assaulted and why it has taken so long to train Peace Corps staff in how to provide that support. I would ask what Peace Corps is doing now and hopes to do in the future to improve that support.

I have two more things I want to discuss, but they do not fall neatly into the questions above. Several months after I was sexually assaulted in Uganda, another PCV who had experienced sexual assault obtained permission from Peace Corps [REDACTED] to start a sexual harassment and assault committee. I joined that committee. While serving on it, I assisted to write and facilitate a staff training program to improve awareness of how PCVs perceive sexual harassment and assault and how Peace Corps staff can provide support for PCVs who have experienced it.

Through the committee, I also distributed a survey among two PCV training groups to determine exactly how prevalent sexual harassment and sexual assault are against PCVs. Of the 75% who answered (about 65 PCVs total), two thirds reported having experienced sexual harassment and one third reported having experienced sexual assault. Only 14% of those who experienced sexual harassment reported to Peace Corps, which bothered me, so I wrote a new survey that was much longer and more detailed to determine why so few volunteers reported and what Peace Corps [REDACTED] could do about it. As of when I left, that survey had not been distributed. I personally feel that one thing Peace Corps could do to improve volunteer support is either increase the number of Peace Corps staff in countries known to be more difficult for PCVs or decrease

the number of PCVs in those countries until staff can be increased and/or better trained to provide support.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 18 April 2011

Signed /s/ [REDACTED]

Peace Corps Volunteer Affidavit

I, [Redacted], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. My name is [Redacted], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted] [Redacted] from August 18, 2009 until August 27, 2010.
2. I was 25 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to help women in other countries explore and take advantage of sustainable economic opportunities. Having been invited to the [Redacted] this was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the [Redacted] culture that is so similar to my own [Redacted] heritage.
4. Before I was placed in the [Redacted], the Peace Corps gave a brief session on sexual harassment, which included an outdated video, but I don't recall anything specific about sexual assault prevention. A strong emphasis was placed on relying on our host parents for safety and not being out late or drinking outside of the volunteers, especially for women, but there wasn't any empowering of the individual on how to take measures to protect you from sexual assault within the normal context of [Redacted] life.
5. On April 16, 2010 I was raped by a member of my host community - someone that I had considered a friend and confidant. He and his brothers would stop by my house on a daily basis to just hang out, along with other young people in the community. The night of the incident this person began to make sexual advances despite my saying that I wasn't interested. At one point he pushed my head down and forced me to give him fellatio. He later pulled me into my bedroom and pushed me onto the bed where he proceeded to force me to have intercourse. Repeatedly I asked him to get off of my and get out of my house. This happened twice that evening. When he left, I was confused and in tears. I couldn't scream because I was worried about being judged by my community.
6. After the assault I called a Peace Corps volunteer to come over to keep me company as I did not feel safe in my community. I called my medical officer on Saturday, April 17, 2010 and told her that I needed morning after contraceptive. She gave me the name of the brand to purchase at the local pharmacy and expense to Peace Corps. Later that same day I called my medical officer again to ask for advice on removing a condom that was stuck inside my body. She walked me through the procedure for removal. Up until this point, I did not put a name to what had occurred.
7. On Monday, April 19th I reported the incident to the same PCMO in the capital more as a medical concern than a security concern at first. My PCMO reported it to the security officer and the country director. I reported the incident to the

Peace Corps by verbally detailing the event to the security officer and PCMO while they both wrote down what I was saying. That Monday or Tuesday, an in-house rape kit was completed by the PCMO. The rape kit was later found to be inadmissible in court at the time of a possible trial because it had broken the chain of evidence. Proper procedure would have been to have a government approved medical officer perform the examination. Once this was done, it had been weeks since the incident.

8. The Peace Corps responded by not allowing me to go back to my community for several days. Having been previously approved to go home to the states for a week, I was escorted to my home by the security officer and a Peace Corps chauffer/"security guard" to gather my suitcase and belongings for my trip. The country director, security personnel and medical officers although they said that they were sympathetic their actions did not match that expression.
 - For example, initially I was sent to see a male psychologist not knowing that there were other options. After my first 2 visits, I decided to stop going and instead to go stay with a fellow female volunteer at her site while I was waiting arrangements to be transferred to a new site. Not being able to stand more sleepless nights and re-playing the incident I went back to Peace Corps and requested another appointment with the psychologist. This time I requested a female psychologist. The PCMO said she would have to look into that because they hadn't used another psychologist in quite some time. This is information that should have been available for these instances.
 - At the time of the incident my APCD was out of the country on vacation. I had to wait 2 months living in a hostel in the capital (paid by Peace Corps) to be reassigned to a community. During my reassignment and after, my APCD repeatedly made comments about how I should have taken my safety into my own hands by dressing more conservatively when I had not dressed inappropriately in any instance. She took my criticism of the situation personally. Prior to the incident I had told my APCD at training that I was having trouble with people in my village not being receptive to the volunteer. I had a tough time finding a home independent from my host family and while living with my host family, my host parents were going through a terrible separation that I was caught in the middle of. At this point, I felt my APCD should have made a visit to my community to investigate. No such visit was made. She only came to the site where the incident occurred once prior to my moving out of my host families home and did not stay long enough to have a seat. The brunt of our meeting was conducted at the [REDACTED]. My APCD, I feel, was also vengeful by making me stay at my second host family's house for a longer period than necessary, especially in comparison to other volunteer situations where a site change was granted. Attached is a letter detailing the disagreement over the length of time I should have stayed living with my second host family.
9. At each meeting Peace Corps stressed the option of being medically separated. Even after I explicitly said that I was not interested in terminated my contract with Peace Corps in any capacity they continued to put obstacles in my way.
10. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed

against me once I expressed that I would like to prosecute. Peace Corps Washington took several weeks to process and approve the request for a lawyer. At the time the assailant could not be arrested because he had fled the community. During the months we were waiting for him to be arrested, Peace Corps called me several times to gauge if I understood that difficulty of winning such a trial. At one point, I was told that they weren't sure if it was worth continuing to pay the lawyer if our chances of winning were slim. I did not feel supported or believed by Peace Corps.

11. Although I was given a 127C for 3 sessions with a psychologist upon my return, Peace Corps nor the PC insurance offered guidance on finding a psychologist in my area with experience in dealing with Peace Corps volunteers. A psychologist that would comprehend the dual issue of battling the aftermath of what happened with "readjusting".
12. Peace Corps did not give me adequate guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. Upon making my decision to leave the Peace Corps, I was told that I should tell people that my project was sustainable. No one addressed the psychological implication of consistently covering my entire Peace Corps experience with a lie and how going back to the States I would questioned in conversation about my Peace Corps experience. No one coached me on how not to cry, avert my eyes from looking at the other person or turn red when I'm forced to tell the person at a party during common conversation, "It was great – My project was sustainable." Awkwardly I cut the conversation short and walk away because I'm not quite sure or comfortable how to react after you feel like you failed at being a Peace Corps volunteer.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps was uncommunicative unless I emailed requesting information on catching this person. Peace Corps kept urging me to communicate with my lawyer directly. The security position was in transition for I was left dealing directly with the aforementioned APCD. Peace Corps Headquarters and [Redacted] were very good about coordinating travel and accommodations once the assailant was arrested.
15. The Peace Corps gave me a 127C upon leaving. I was responsible for finding a provider in my area, which was very difficult. In the [Redacted] area – few medical providers (i.e. physicians, gynecologists and psychologists take Beech Street Insurance). The insurance did cover these visits.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had believed me and offered more support once I had come back to the United States.
17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask for assistance in transitioning back into the US workforce or going back to school after being separated before your COS date. Often interviewers will question why I only stayed for a year and if they don't question, I automatically feel that they know. There should be a better mechanism for transitioning volunteers that have had to cut their time in Peace Corps short and/or had a traumatic experience while in service.

I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and

correct.

Date: 4/24/11

Signed: Redacted

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED] state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

My name is [REDACTED] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED], from June 2008 until February 2010. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted the opportunity to do something that would help other people and to experience living in another culture.

Before I was placed in [REDACTED] the information provided by the Peace Corps made me aware that there was a risk of sexual assault or other threats to my safety while serving, but it also led me to believe that as much as possible would be done to help me avoid such incidents, and if one were to occur, I would certainly receive that care that I needed.

During our two-month training period, we had a session on avoiding sexual assault and what to do in the case of a sexual assault, and the message that we got from the Safety and Security Officer and the cross-cultural trainer seemed to be that if we got raped, everyone in our Guyanese communities would think it was our fault, including the Peace Corps [REDACTED] staff.

Almost 12 months after I arrived in [REDACTED], I was the victim of a break-in and attempted rape at my home in my village. I had just fallen asleep, around 10 or 11 pm, when I heard a knocking at my door. I knew that it wasn't anyone that I wanted to see, because nobody came to visit me that late, since all of my neighbors knew that I usually went to sleep by 8 or 9 every night. I figured that it was a drunk man from the village, and I thought that if I ignored him, he would leave. But he kept pounding on my door, saying [REDACTED]. Eventually he said, "If you don't open the door, I'm going to break it down." At this point I was completely terrified, and I could hear him right outside my window. I still thought that the best thing to do was to pretend that I wasn't there. At this point I was just lying there, waiting for him to break down the door--I have never been so scared in my life. After a few minutes, I didn't hear anything, so I thought that maybe he had left. Then I heard him run into the door, but it didn't break. I felt a moment of relief, but then I heard the sound of metal hitting the floor, and in what seemed like only a second, I could tell that the man was in my bedroom. I couldn't see him around the door, but I could feel that he was there. I started screaming as loud as I could, and he came around the door and pushed me back on the bed. (The next day, when I came back to my house, I saw that he pushed me hard enough to pull the mosquito net, which was nailed to the wall, out of the wall.) When he was pushing me onto the bed, I kept screaming, and he ran out of the room. I thought that maybe he was still in the house, but I took the opportunity to run out the front door—it turned out that he had broken the back door, and the lock flying off of the door and hitting the floor was the sounds I had heard.

I ran next door to my host mom's house, and knocked on her door and told her what had happened. At this point, everyone started coming up by her house because they

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had heard me screaming, and many of the men went off to look for the man who had broken into my house. He wasn't someone that I recognized, and he didn't have any particularly distinguishing features that I could use to describe him, but some of the people in the village thought they knew who he was, and they all seemed to agree on the same man.

I went to sleep at my host mom's house and around 2:00 in the morning the "Village Captain" (Indigenous villages in [REDACTED] are self-governed by an elected Village Captain and Village Council.) came by the house and asked me some questions and told me he wanted to take me to the regional police station the next morning to report the crime.

The next morning as I was getting on the boat to leave the village, I called the Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer (SSO) and told him what happened and that we were going to the police. He met the Village Captain and me on the highway and came to the police station with us. At the station, the three of us met with the detective and I told him my story. The detective was very helpful and when the SSO said that he would hire a boat to go to the village to take a look at the house and to see if I could identify my attacker, the detective agreed to come with some other police officers.

When we returned to my village, we went to my house. The SSO took one look at my door that had been broken in and said that he never would have approved that door...however *he did not come to inspect my house for safety* before I moved in as was required. The SSO had told me that I could press charges against my attacker, but unfortunately, when we returned to my village, the Village Captain was unwilling to cooperate in taking the police and the SSO to the suspect's home, and the SSO told him that that he would not send me back to the village if they did not find my attacker and turn him over to the police. We left without any sort of a resolution.

That night I stayed at another volunteer's house, in the capital. Two days later Peace Corps informed me that they were going to move me to another site because of what had happened. I was upset because I loved my village so much, but I knew that I couldn't argue. I was told that I could return to my village over the weekend to say my good-byes and collect my belongings. At this point new placements for me were discussed (we identified one that seemed like a good fit and we began to discuss housing), but not much attention was given to the attack that I had just experienced, and this continued for most of the duration of my service.

I spent about a month after the attack staying in the capital at the other volunteer's house, mostly doing nothing, without much idea of what would happen to me or where I would be placed. I had a very difficult time during these weeks, but hoped that I would feel better once I began my new placement. When it was agreed upon that I would begin a placement at a conservation organization in the capital, I began to look for housing, which I had been told to do. When I called my Program Manager to discuss some of the options that I had found, she told me that I would be moving into an apartment below another volunteer. After I went to visit it, I had to tell Peace Corps that I could not live in it because I felt unsafe there (it did not even meet some of their own

housing requirements for urban areas.) The CD told me that I could look for another place, but my Program Manager told me that I would be living there. When I refused again, Peace Corps called me in for a meeting and after making me feel quite bad about refusing the apartment, told me they would give me one week to find a place to live, or they would not let me take the placement with the conservation organization and they would send me to another part of the country without telling me where. They ended up only giving me two days to find a place, and after rejecting the first two places that I had found, we went to see another place which I had not seen yet. Despite the fact that this house was in a "Red Zone" (an area where volunteers were not allowed to go except in limited circumstances), it was decided that I would live in this house...so I was a recent victim of a break-in and assault, living in an area that even the staff didn't think was safe.

I continued to have a great deal of difficulty in [REDACTED]. I did not feel safe at my house or in my neighborhood. I experienced nightmares, trouble sleeping, withdrawal, anxiety, depression, among many other symptoms resulting from my attack for the rest of my time in Peace Corps. However I received little support from Peace Corps staff; the little support I did receive is detailed below:

On the day immediately following my attack, the SSO told that it was procedure for the Country Director (CD) to meet with volunteers who had experienced events like I did, and although he took me to the office, the CD did not meet with...and never met with me until my exit interview. He told me I had to go see the nurse, who was very kind but did not offer much in the way of action.

Eventually another volunteer told me that I could ask to see a counselor, so I went to the nurse and requested this. I went to this counselor a few times, but I think it ended up being more detrimental than helpful to me, as the therapy included her telling me "people...have to experience things like this so we can understand life," making unfounded disparaging comments about the indigenous peoples in [REDACTED], and suggesting that I put some rose petals in water to help me relax instead of offering any actual coping methods. I thought I had exhausted all of my possibilities for getting help after I stopped seeing the counselor, so I didn't seek any further help from Peace Corps (and none was offered).

Several months later, after experiencing what I now think was probably a nervous break-down when I was with some other volunteers, I went back to the nurse and told her that I still was having a really hard time dealing with what had happened to me. She told me she thought I might have PTSD, and then she had a counselor from the Office of Special Services (OSS) call me. It was helpful for me to talk to her, but she told me that I did **not** have PTSD. We agreed that she would call me once a week after that, but often times she would have to cancel, and by that point, I think it was too little too late.

In the end, I was not able to complete my service, and I was "medically separated" from Peace Corps for "adjustment disorder" (There was still no recognition from Peace Corps that I had PTSD at this time.) in February 2010.

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At the time I left Peace Corps, I was given a voucher for three "evaluation" sessions with a counselor. Upon returning home, I went to see a therapist, who immediately recognized that I had PTSD. I continued to experience symptoms of PTSD to the point that it interfered with my daily life, and I saw this therapist for the three visits that Peace Corps had authorized, before moving to my current city and continuing my treatment here. In April 2010, after receiving a statement from the first therapist that I saw, the Office of Medical Services (OMS) at Peace Corps officially recognized my diagnosis of PTSD. They authorized an additional seven counseling sessions for me, at which point I had to apply to the Department of Labor to see if they would accept my case so that my treatment would be covered under Workman's Compensation. In the mean time, I continued my treatment, seeing a therapist and a psychiatrist, and taking medication to manage the symptoms of PTSD. My case was accepted by the Department of Labor in February 2011. I am in the process of submitting a reimbursement claim to the Office of Workman's Compensation, and the process has been extremely difficult the whole way through. I have found it very hard to get anyone at Peace Corps OMS or the Office of Workman's Compensation to help me.

I wish that Peace Corps had made me aware of my options for getting help *as soon* as I reported the attack. I think it would have been very helpful if I was immediately told that I could see a counselor locally, and if that didn't work out, that I could talk to a counselor at OSS. I also wish that the staff had been kinder. No one on staff ever told me they were sorry about what had happened, and most of them ignored that it had ever happened at all.

If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that they make victims of violence aware of their rights as soon as possible after the attack.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 04/29/11

Signed [REDACTED]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

ANONYMOUS

I, [Redacted], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. My name is [Redacted], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted], from 2008 until 2010.
2. I was [Redacted] years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I wanted to work with kids in a part of the world where I could contribute to them feeling like they had value and a future.
4. Before I was placed in [Redacted], the Peace Corps provided one long group session during our pre-service training about what happens in the event of a sexual assault. They talked vaguely about what would happen with the police or Medivac. (although they did say that was an option) They did a good job with telling us that however we responded to an attack (fight back, be submissive, etc.) was ok, it's not our fault and PC wouldn't blame us. They said nothing about if there would be any support if you went home after the assault.
5. 20 months after I arrived in [Redacted], I was in [Redacted], the city where Peace Corps is. I was coming back from another part of the country where I was helping to teach a workshop. I could not make it back to my village before dark, so I stayed overnight in the city at the Peace Corps training center. I walked down to the local mall to buy dinner. I was walking back to the training center. It was 545pm (about 90 mins of daylight left) Less than 2 minutes away from the Peace Corps office, one man grabbed me from behind, putting me in a choke hold. Another was in front of me and took my cell phone and wallet. I thought it was going to be another robbery. (I had been robbed before twice at knife point) But they dragged me behind some bushes and sexually assaulted me. Eventually, they ran away back toward the mall I was coming from. I ran to the Peace Corps office.
6. After the assault I ran to the Peace Corps office. I did not tell the guards what happened, but asked them to call the Peace Corps security guy. I spoke with him on the phone and told him what happened. He called the PCMO who came (as did the CD) and took care of me that night. The CD was very helpful, explaining that I could report to the police or not, and found me a place to stay instead of

going back to the training center and having to be with other volunteers that night. I was not left alone.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by asking the guards to call PC security. He called the PCMO and the country director.
8. The Peace Corps responded by going with me to the police station to file a report. I was reluctant to go because I had been mugged twice before and reported to the police who didn't care. I did not want to have to tell my story and have them react the same way. The security person from the embassy came and put a lot of pressure on me saying that I had to report, I couldn't let these guys get away with it. I tried to explain my experiences with the police, but she told me "I could stop this from happening to another woman." Just the right buttons to push. We went to the police (embassy security person, CD and myself...the Peace Corps security guy met us later) and the police did not care. They were watching soccer on TV and did not appear to want to stop. The embassy person suggested they send people down to the mall to check for these guys. They said maybe the next day. The embassy person asked them what the criminals would be charged with. The police answered "robbery" At that point I lost my temper. They finally handed me a piece of paper to write down what happened. They didn't care. Going to the police that night made it worse.
9. The Peace Corps did file charges and told me they'd be with me every step of the way. The PC regional security guy took me during the week to [Redacted] to work with a sketch artist. (I could identify one guy, but not the other)
10. The Peace Corps was very supportive with me the week after it happened giving me any support I needed and taking me to a counselor. They sent me to DC for a medivac. I received wonderful care there and had a counselor who spent time with me every day during my 45 days there. With her help, I was able to go back to [Redacted]. The PC director also met with me while I was in DC and I do believe that he cares about this issue deeply.

My problems with Peace Corps and this case happened after I left [Redacted] for DC and when I came back. The HCN security PC guy was supposed to be following through with the police. But it was three weeks (according to him) until he contacted the police again to find out what they were doing. I heard nothing from [Redacted] while I was in DC unless I contacted them. It felt like it was "out of site, out of mind" to me. On the suggestion of my counselor, I spoke to security in DC. I was given a mixed message. First being "it's very busy in [Redacted], there's not much we can do. I asked if this case had any priority, because if it didn't I would've never reported it." Security then said it did and would check to see what was going on. They did and they told me. But all of my dealings with security in DC led me to believe that they felt I was over reacting. I suspected that if I was ever going to learn of anything that was being done, I would have to pursue it on my own. I went back to [Redacted] and it was agreed upon that [Redacted] would weekly let me know what was going on with the case. When I returned, the PC

security guy took me to talk with the detectives. 6 detectives in a room asking me to go over every detail. And then I had to take them back to where it happened. All of this with no warning from the security guy until it was happening. Some training definitely needed here.

After being back at my village for a month and hearing nothing from PC, I traveled to the city to speak with my CD. I had two such meetings with her over a several week period. I had received mixed messages from her. I believe she cared, but it also seemed like she was overwhelmed from other situations that were happening with volunteers. She stated several times that "you don't know how busy we are with everything going on." I knew that was true and during the first meeting asked her if she could talk to DC and ask for help. She said she would. The second meeting we had went the same, but a little worse. She kept saying "you expect us to solve the case..." I kept explaining to her that I did not, but I expected PC to keep their promise of continuing to put pressure on the police (they were not) and to communicate with me weekly... even if it was to tell me that they called the police and nothing was happening. It became clear to me at this point that the CD thought that the security guy was doing certain things she asked of him... like communicating with me, following through with the police... he was not. When I asked him why he wasn't following through with the police, he stated "I talk with them and then I let them do their jobs." A big cultural thing there with some training needed.

My counselor from DC continued to call me regularly while I was in [Redacted] and check in with me. She suggested I email the security guy in DC who was in charge and let him know what was going on. I did and he responded with "its been really busy in [Redacted], you should prepare yourself that they never catch these guys, we can't solve the case." I responded back with a "hey, you're not listening. PC hasn't kept their promises to keep pressure on the police and they are not communicating with me as promised." That was in June. I never heard back from this security guy until Dec.

I think that the PC regional security guy was doing stuff on the case when he could. But nobody was telling me that. The communication was really awful. Like they couldn't be bothered. Maybe that's not how they felt, but if they don't communicate, what am I supposed to feel. A PC person once told me "not to take it personally." Two men dragged me behind some bushes and sexually assaulted me. How can I not take that personally?

Eventually, the CD talked to the Ambassador about the case and the Ambassador put some pressure on the police. And then the police started looking at the sketch that was made several months earlier and never been distributed. The police caught the man in the sketch in July. At the end of July I testified for several hours at his trial. His trial is still going on today

11. Peace Corps did not tell me what to tell anyone. That was up to me.
12. I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps. But, I had been approved to extend for a year. The day after the I testified at the trial, PC told me that because of security reasons, I had to leave the country. I had 2 days to pack up and leave my village.
13. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps did email me when a trial date was supposed to happen. But if it was postponed, they said they would let me know when they heard something. Which then I would hear nothing and would have to chase them down. I understand that PC is busy, but now that I'm an RPCV, it's difficult to know that if I don't pursue, I don't hear anything. Apparently, everything is supposed to go through the security guy in DC. I heard nothing from him until Dec. A few weeks after I wrote an email to the director detailing the problems I've had with PC during this. I told him that I love PC and gave some suggestions for the future, so other volunteers would feel more supported. So, if the security guy just decided to take it seriously on his own after 6 months of no communication with him at all, great. If its because the director intervened, I appreciate that, because again, I believe the director cares.
14. The Peace Corps gave me a voucher when I left [Redacted] for counseling sessions when I got home. I didn't know anyone on the provider list so I asked PC what would happen if I went to someone who wasn't on the list. I gave them a name and the counselor's credential. They checked and said I could see that person and PC would pay them. I asked them what would happen if I needed more sessions when the PC approved sessions were finished. They said that FECA would pick it up and sent me the paper work.(I spoke with them twice) Not surprising, after dealing with leaving the country so quickly, little resolution there, the trial that still is going on and being so far away from it and knowing what's going on.(and that triggering a lot of stuff from the assault) I needed more sessions. Turns out that FECA wouldn't approve this counselor because she isn't an LCSW or a PHD. Why didn't PC tell me that. They knew exactly what kind of a counselor I was wanting to see. Why didn't they tell me that if I needed more, I'd have problem's with FECA? I would've started with someone with the right credential. My old PC counselor in DC had me talk to the DC person in charge of this. She apologized and said she would try to help. (I also explained that I was about to run out of anti anxiety meds that were prescribed to me by PC after the attack...I have no doctor because I was jobless until a month ago, no insurance yet. The PC insurance I continued to pay for after I left [Redacted] has only 3 providers in my area, none of which were taking new patients.) She helped me file paperwork and said that hopefully I will be able to continue to see the counselor I started with. The last contact with her was an email a week ago saying that soon I will receive something saying that the claim was filed and then eventually something from DOL letting me know if it's approved... or not. (FECA paperwork says it could take up to 10 weeks) So for now, no counselor and I ran out of Paxil this last week... cold turkey from Paxil. The withdrawal symptoms are severe. Where is PC in all of this? I was a good volunteer. I served my country

for 27 months and was going to stay another 12 months. Why am I going through this alone?

I believe my CD meant well, but she was new, understaffed and had a lot going on in the country. OSS in DC was wonderful. The security guy there was not. He acted like it was too much to bother with, which was a horrible feeling. And now, PC is done with me when I need their help.

I believe in what PC stands for. My 2 years in [Redacted] were wonderful. They changed my life. Even with knowing what happened, I'd do it again. I'm just asking now that PC trains their CD's to know what to do with volunteers if this happens. Directly after and if they do come back to country. Check in with them to find out if they have the know-how/support to deal with the authorities. Communicate with the volunteer. And help the volunteer when they return home. If the case is pending, don't drop it... pursue it. Continue to regularly communicate with the RPCV. Does something like this matter to the Peace Corps? And please, help with services. The transition to FECA is horrible. Good info needs to be given in the beginning. Tell the RPCV all their options. Remember, they may be still going through trauma and may be too messed up to know what to ask. Educate them and help them through the process. At one point, when I was about to run out of meds and was not able to see my counselor, the PC rep asked when the assault happened. I told her and she said, "oh, we just went over the 6 month mark. We could've extended your benefits." Really? I spoke with PC several times before the six months and no one ever mentioned that. We all just want to know that PC has our backs. It's hard to be sure of that right now.

I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 2/20/11

Signed: [Redacted]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [Redacted] state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is (Mr.) [Redacted] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho, from [Redacted] 2007 until [Redacted] 2010 and then a Peace Corps Response volunteer in [Redacted] from [Redacted] 2010 until [Redacted] 2010. I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.
2. I was 25 years old when I joined the Peace Corps in [Redacted] and 28 when I joined Peace Corps in [Redacted].
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps in [Redacted] because I wanted to be of service while living my life like an adventure, living the life I love. I chose to join in [Redacted] because I wanted to use my communication background to assist a local NGO.
4. Before I was placed in [Redacted], the Peace Corps provided some sexual assault training. In [Redacted], the training video was from the late 1980s or early 1990s. I remember stories from the women who had been assaulted and felt that instead of providing a clear way forward in terms of what to do if one is assaulted, the video focused on scare tactics and victim-blaming. There was also no mention of males being sexually assaulted. There was also a group discussion on how women could avoid being assaulted and how the male volunteers could be vigilant with the females as well.

In [Redacted] there was the same training video that was shown, and there was a group discussion about sexual assault. The trainer asked the group who would not report a sexual assault and I raised my hand. The trainer, in front of everyone, asked why I wouldn't report and I said that I wouldn't feel comfortable. She kept asking over and over again until I left the room. I had been sexually assaulted while a volunteer in [Redacted] and I didn't report it.
5. Thirty-four months after I arrived in [Redacted], a man attempted to rape me while I was on holiday with my parents in [Redacted]. We befriended each other at a local night spot, and I went home with him that night. I told him upfront that I didn't want to have sex with him. He agreed but once we were back at his place, he sexually assaulted me. I was afraid to call for help as we were in a [Redacted] neighborhood and didn't know what would happen to the both of us if others came to assist. I was able to talk him down and after some time he went to asleep. I woke up several times to him trying to penetrate me without a condom, but I was able to gently fight him off. I waited until the dawn broke so that I could see my way out of the neighborhood I was in. I returned to the hostel where I was staying with my parents. I didn't tell them what had happened as my parents see me being gay as against God and an abomination. I just didn't know how to

confide in them about what happened. So I didn't tell them nor did I report what happened to Peace Corps [Redacted]. I tried as much as I could to forget what happened.

6. I did not report my sexual assault to Peace Corps [Redacted]. As described above, my experience came out after being interrogated by the trainer for my Peace Corps [Redacted] post. After that training I did report my sexual assault experience to the training officer who then reported it to the country director and I later on reported it to the medical staff. No one suggested that I go to counseling nor did anyone think I should report what happened to Peace Corps Washington.

Instead, I went on to my site and began experiencing affects of post-traumatic stress disorder after having had to confront what had happened. I did not receive psycho-social support from Peace Corps [Redacted]. I was experiencing extreme insomnia during the entire three months I was there. I went to the medical officer and reported my insomnia and she sent me to a local doctor. The local doctor prescribed that to treat my insomnia I should play basketball every day, have sex with women, and take a shot of rum every night before bed. I told him that I exercise every day, I'm gay and I don't drink. The doctor then prescribed me three Valium to take every night for three days and he said that my sleep patterns would be okay after those three nights.

I reported what happened back to the Peace Corps nurse. She said she would look for another doctor for me. I early terminated my contract three days later because I knew I needed counseling and Peace Corps [Redacted] wasn't going to provide that for me.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by February 2010. I reported to the program and training officer, she reported it to the country director and I reported it to the medical staff a few weeks later. I reported the incident to Peace Corps Washington only after I early terminated my contract and arrived back to my home of record. The medical unit at Peace Corps Washington said I had to report the incident to the safety and security department and I did report to them.
8. The program and training officer of Peace Corps in [Redacted], the program that resides over Peace Corps [Redacted] responded by being sympathetic and said I could talk with her through email any time. The country director never said anything to me. The nurses only said "oh". Again, I was never instructed to report the incident to Peace Corps Washington nor was any counseling offered.
9. The Peace Corps did not, at first, take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. Documentation was only suggested after I had returned home and was trying to get extra counseling sessions.

10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker(s). The attack happened in another continent [Redacted] at another post [Redacted] in a country outside of my post [Redacted] while I was on holiday. Even if it was possible to report, I wouldn't pursue it. As a gay man, I would not want to suffer the embarrassment and harassment at the hands of the [Redacted] police.
11. The Peace Corps did not address my assault even after I had reported it to local staff. It is true, the assault did not happen at their post, but I was still a volunteer at their post who needed counseling and nothing was afforded to me.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. Peace Corps did not provide any supportive services after I reported the incident and even after I reported severe insomnia that had lasted the entire three months of my service.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps in [Redacted] [Redacted]
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps provided adequate assistance in counseling services. I received six PC-127 forms and the medical unit insisted that I report the incident to the security unit. The person at the security unit was very helpful and even wondered why no one at Peace Corps in [Redacted] did anything to provide me support. The workers' compensation process, however, took a lot of time and energy. I was fortunate in that I had a helpful caseworker from the Department of Labor and she provided me with much assistance in getting my claim filed and eventually accepted.
15. The Peace Corps referred me to another agency to obtain the benefits I needed to recover, the Department of Labor Worker's Compensation. I documented my experience, collected reports from my providers and filed a claim with the Department of Labor.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had recognized that I needed help too. Even though I am a man, the sexual assault was horrific for me just as much as it would be for a woman. Men need support too and maybe there are few statistics on sexual assault with male volunteers is because male volunteers feel comfortable in reporting it. The local medical staff never asked me what happened or how they could support me. It is difficult enough being a gay volunteer in these countries, but reporting a sexual assault is even more challenging.
17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that they please sensitize their staff to male-male sexual assault. Don't buy in to the gender roles that men must play: be strong, never cry, don't get help. It's that kind of thinking that can keep men from any culture from seeking any kind of support.

I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Redacted

Date: March 14, 2011

Signed:

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [Redacted], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [Redacted] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted] from February 2009 until August 2009.
2. I was 26 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I had always wanted to experience living in another country. I worked for a non-profit and I wanted to experience the true "on the ground" work of NGOs.
4. Before I was placed in [Redacted], the Peace Corps did not discuss sexual assault with us. Many volunteers at our 'staging' event in Philadelphia, where we gathered just before departing to [Redacted], asked about local crime rates and such, but we were continually told that the staging event was for GENERAL information and we would get more in-country.
5. 2-3 months after I arrived in [Redacted] once placed at my 'site' I was harassed and then assaulted by my co-worker's boyfriend (who is also the brother of my host mother). What follows is a modification of the report I had to put together for the Peace Corps security officer in [Redacted]. [Redacted] is the NGO where I was placed.

People Involved

[Redacted]	My supervisor at [Redacted], brother to [Redacted]
[Redacted]	Office manager for [Redacted], sister to [Redacted]
[Redacted]	Boyfriend to [Redacted], brother of my host mother [Redacted]
[Redacted]	My host mother; sister to [Redacted]
[Redacted]	Financial Manager, [Redacted]
[Redacted]	Peace Corps Country Director for [Redacted]

Timeline of Events

11 April, Sat Stayed the night at [Redacted] house per her repeated request (I had been denying her requests, but was worried about coming across rude, so I finally accepted the invitation). [Redacted] and a male friend were there, both drunk, and [Redacted] friend kept hitting on me, proposing marriage and trying to touch me. There was a female neighbor there (in her 50s, give or take) but she was getting pretty drunk too and also didn't make me feel safe. I felt very unprotected, especially as [Redacted] was quite drunk and kept 'petting' me on the head and arms.

Redact was in and out all night until about midnight when they went to sleep. At night, honestly, I was worried that **Redact** was going to come into my room since he was so drunk he might forget which room was his or something. And there was no lock on my door. I have never considered that I would ever be raped, but I honestly thought about it that night and was worried **Redact** would stumble drunk into my room. Luckily he did not. I decided never to accept an invitation from **Reda** again and wished I would have run with my instincts not to break down and accept the invitation in the first place.

5 May, Tues I am the first one to arrive at the office, near an hour before the office opens and anyone is there. **Redac** had been promising me a set of keys since no one else wanted to get in that early, but it had been weeks and I still had no keys. I called **Redact** cell phone to see if she was on her way since the office was locked. No answer to my 2-3 calls.

About 15 minutes later, **Redact** came by the office to drop off the office keys to me; **Redact** said we should exchange phone numbers in case something like that happened again, that seemed reasonable and I didn't sense any trouble. Then he said I should not let anyone know that I have his number. If **Reda** asks to see my phone, I should not let her and if she asks why I have his number, I should tell her it's none of her business. He said that us having the other's number should stay just between us. That's when I sensed trouble.

7 May, Thurs **Redact** stopped by the office at lunchtime when I was alone there. He said he expected a call or SMS/text from me after the phone number exchange; I said I wasn't interested and he said he'd start the process. That afternoon I received the following SMSs:

- *Someone somewhere – he's thinking about you, I mean I miss u n love u. enjoy your day*
- *If mountains can share mist in the morning, then why can't we share greetings in the morning...Good afternoon my LOVE and have a blessed day. LUV U LOTZ*
- *We will keep a low profile and let me confess that I love and allow me to handle that situation, it won't be known by anybody but only u and me, please accept my proposal, u won't regret ur stay here and please I beg you and reply.*

(I believe that last one was in reply to me saying something to the effect that I wasn't interested, he has a girlfriend who I wouldn't want to hurt, etc.)

8 May, Friday **Redact** called me in the morning and said again how he wants to have a relationship with me, I told him no. He said he was going to **Redact** (the capital of **Redacted**) that day but would stop by the house that night to discuss face-to-face, I told him I did not want him to come by the house.

I was worried to say anything like so brash as "I don't like you" because I wasn't sure how he would react and I didn't want to upset him since I work with his girlfriend and live with his sister.

That day I was running errands with my supervisor Reda and without giving a name I asked his advice on how a woman can get a man to stop contacting her when she's not interested. He said I needed to be firm and outright say that I wasn't interested; that was the only way to get him to stop. I sent Reda an SMS saying just that – I'm not interested and to stop calling/SMSing and not to come by his sister's house that night. I did not get a return SMS from Reda.

Reda was curious who this was – asking if the man was black, if this was someone he knew, etc. – and he ended up guessing it was Reda. After I had described the situation, Reda laughed and said something to the effect of "that sounds like Reda." I was quiet a second and then said something like "well, you guessed it." Reda was upset that I told him it was Reda, saying something like "you didn't have to tell me he went to Joburg today." (Reda is in Reda and Redacted quite a bit because of his work with the ANC (Redacted – the current ruling part of Redacted and quite controversial), he's some type of secretary.) Reda was pretty quiet after that.

I'm sorry to say I honestly don't remember what happened that night after work. I sort of remember someone knocking on my door and I didn't answer, but I can't swear by that. It could have been another night. It was late, dark and I was in bed. I heard a loud and firm knock at the door. I could tell it wasn't my host siblings since they knock several times in a row, very fast. I was so scared and didn't say anything. I just laid in my bed and clutched the comforter.

9 May, Sat This evening, give or take between 7-9 p.m., I got three calls from Reda all within 5 minutes, none of which I answered.

11 May, Mon I felt mentally exhausted this day, so I sent Jabu an SMS saying that I was going to stay home and rest. Around noon or so, Reda visited unannounced along with the Reda financial manager, Reda.

I was told by Peace Corps volunteers in Redacted never to invite black Redacted men into your room. Even though these are men I work with, I just talked with them at the door and did not invite them in. Red scooped and asked if they were going to be invited in. Not wanting to offend my boss, I said okay, sure, come in. Reda asked if I would indulge the child in him. I asked was he was talking about and he gave me a look and then jumped backwards onto my bed.

Reda just stood in my room, but Jabu sat down on my bed. He made a negative comment about the bed being uncomfortable and then he proceeded to criticize my personal 'vision board' that is hung above my desk.

They stayed maybe 10 minutes and then Red said something to the effect of "well, you don't look like there's anything seriously wrong with you, so I guess we'll chalk this up to female issues."

19 June, Fri I was alone in the office this afternoon since Red decided not to come into work (which happens quite and often and without notice), another staff Reda was out for a

conference, another [Redac] went home early, another [Redact] was on holiday and the remaining two [Redac] and [Redact] went on a bank run.

A little after 4 p.m. (which is when the office closes), I was still the only person in the office. I was in the small hallway between [Redac] office and my office since I heard the front door open. [Redact] walked in, standing in the front foyer area by the couch (about 5-8 feet from me) and asked where [Reda] was. I said I was the only one in the office.

He said I should lock the door because someone might steal me. He said "they might come and do this" and he came towards me and started to grab me, sort of like a hug. Then he tried to kiss my face; I turned away, so he started kissing my neck and feeling my breasts and I was trying to push him off of me, saying something like "okay, okay" and then I got louder and firmer and said "stop, stop."

He backed off like he was leaving and I went into my office to create more space between us. From inside my office I asked if he wanted me to tell [Reda] (his girlfriend) that he stopped by. Then he came back into the hallway and to where I was standing in my office doorway. He grabbed me, in that hug-hold again and started to kiss my face and neck. I put my hands up on his chest to push him away. He grabbed my hands and put them down in his groin area and rubbed my hands around and I tried to pull my hands away. Then he let go of my hands and took his hand and put it down in my groin area, rubbed around, and gave me this creepy look – I had been trying to avoid eye contact so that he wouldn't kiss me on the lips, but I was so shocked that he touched me where he did that I looked directly at him.

He tried to undo my pants, but I pushed his hands away. I pushed his hand away and then pushed him away – either by pushing his chest or shoulders, I don't remember exactly – but I remember feeling his arms and how strong they were and that kind of scared me that he might overpower me. I turned away and he grabbed me from behind and put his arms around my shoulders, sort of like a bear hug I suppose. He was rocking his body into me and thrusting at my behind. I was trying to turn around and all I could say was "you really need to go, you really need to go" over and over while pushing him away until he let go of me and left the office. I pushed the door closed on him with me inside the office and him on the other side of the door.

As the door was almost closed, he said something to the effect of "just think about it, okay?" and I said sort of sarcastically "uh-huh, yah, okay, bye." I closed the door, locked it, and waited until I heard the front door open and close (it's very noisy) to make sure he left. Then I went to the window in the kitchen, overlooking the gate/parking lot, to make sure he was gone. I saw his car pulling away and then went to lock the burglar door.

24 June, Wed I spoke with my boss this morning around 9 a.m. to tell him what transpired on Friday with [Redact] [Reda] asked me what I would do if I was the director of an organization and this happened to my employee. I said I would begin by talking with the person who assaulted my staff person.

Reda called in Reda the financial manager, and Reda the programmes and logistics coordinator to discuss with them and determine the next course of action. Reda then told Jabu that she and a former staff member, Redacted, had also been hit on/approached by Redact. Redac said she "kept it in the family" by just talking with Redac and telling him to stop. Redac did not mention that anything happened after that conversation. Redacted left Redacted at the end of April this year.

Redac said guests are only allowed in the foyer area by the couch and are not allowed back by the offices unless invited – from what I could tell, it sounded like she was accusing me of letting this happen. I made it very clear to Redac that I did not invite Redacted into the office. Redacted seemed to be very upset with me that I brought this up to Reda. It was decided that Reda, Redacted girlfriend, should know about this. Reda was brought in and told. She didn't say much, only to ask how long it had been going on. At the end of the meeting she was crying and we all left her some space.

When I came back early from lunch, the office was locked and everyone was gone. I unlocked the office and closed and locked the burglar door behind me. About 20 minutes later, Redact came back to the office, unlocked the door and came back to my office. She said "Oh you are here. I wondered why the door was locked." I made a comment that considering what just happened, I will lock the door when I am in the office alone. She had walked away by that point, clearly unconcerned with what I had to say.

That evening, Red planned to meet with an elder/reverend from the board and also, hopefully, with Redact. Redact was in Redacted that day for a meeting. Jabu and the elder met in the evening, but they were unable to get a hold of Pocket.

Reda called me in the evening to say that tomorrow the elder wanted to meet with me. I said fine and asked if this was to be during the day. Reda said yes.

25 June, Thurs Reda did not come to work this day and he did not call me. I asked Reda if she knew when Reda was coming in, she said she did not. I asked if she talked to Redact. She said he called her to say that Red asked for a meeting with him and he asked Redac what this meeting was about. Reda said she did not know. She mentioned the meeting today was supposed to be with me, the elder, Reda and Redact. I did not know this meeting included Redact. Red told me just the elder, Red and me. Redac said not to tell Red that I knew the meeting was to include Redact. Apparently it was a surprise for me.

Since I knew we had to get back to Redacted today and it was already noon and I hadn't seen Reda I gave him a call. He did not answer his phone and it went to voicemail. I left him a message asking what was going to happen with the meeting with the elder and reminded him that we need to get back to Redacted today. This was odd because Reda always answers his phone or he calls back immediately.

Around 2 p.m. (give or take) Reda called the office and I happened to pick up the phone. He asked for Reda. I said wait a minute, what about the meeting today, it's getting late and I haven't heard from you all day, what is supposed to happen? He said they were

unable to get a hold of [Redacted] and would try to meet tomorrow. After we hung up, I called [Redacted] to inform her.

This night is when [Redacted] said for me to come into [Redacted] (another [Redacted] capital).

26 June, Fri This is the day I left for [Redacted] (where Peace Corps' [Redacted] headquarters is located)

6. After the assault(s) Peace Corps had me go to the capital for support. I was removed from my site. While I initially didn't want to have to leave my site, I did agree with the Country Director that this was the safest route.
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by contacting the security coordinator.
8. The Peace Corps responded by having me removed from my site. Initially I was in denial of the experience and thought that I would be fine to stay at my site. Having never experienced assault before, the Country Director really opened my eyes to the fact that my attacker knew where I was at any given point in the day. His sister was my host mother and he was dating the office manager where I worked. I was thankful that the CD was supportive of me moving sites.

As time went on and I realized that the PC staff wasn't very familiar with what to do in this situation, the CD began to turn. As I got louder in my request for counseling to deal with my PTSD symptoms, she got more frustrated with me.
9. I am not sure if the Peace Corps took action to document that a crime had been committed against me. I spoke with the country's security officer and also the regional officer, but I was worried that this man would try to find me. The man who attacked me had means. In the sense that he knew people in [Redacted] and [Redacted] and I knew he could drive his car to this city to get me. He also still had my phone number. He had access to the Internet and could have found PC's headquarters. I was worried about retribution from my attacker so I told PC I wasn't sure about pressing charges. Initially I appreciated that they were trying to let me make the decision whether or not to press charges. But, later I realized that I had no clue what I was doing in this field and that I needed better guidance in this decision.
10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker(s). The security officers just said it was my decision. At the time, I suppose that I appreciated that they tried to put the decision in my hands. However, looking back, I wasn't informed on what to do. I wasn't presented with realistic options.
11. The Peace Corps Country Director in [Redacted] didn't show respect for me. She continually called me by names that rhyme with my name -- [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted], etc. -- but not my own name. I felt like she didn't listen to me. I was afraid

of her and so was my Peace Corps boss (APCD by Peace Corps language), who was supposed to advocate for me. I felt alone and like I needed help but no one was there to help me.

12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. However, I was supposed to lead sessions at a new trainee training session and Peace Corps took away those responsibilities from me. I told them that I wanted to educate Volunteers on harassment so that they could look out for possible situations and learn how to deal with harassment. Peace Corps refused.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps. I scouted a new site where I thought I would feel safe. Another Volunteer from my group was placed there and I met my potential supervisor who was [Redacted] and knew what it was like to be an outsider. I was petrified of moving into a community, freaking out and then having to leave after having made a commitment. The Country Director shot down this idea and was forcing me to go to a small village where a Volunteer had just left. They would not let me visit the village (as we do site visits during training). I told them that I was afraid of being targeted because I am white and this village was roughly 99.9% black [Redacted] [Redacted]. The CD was very indignant and said she could not guarantee my safety. As a level-headed person, I was shocked by this response. I assured her that I was not naïve enough to think that my safety is guaranteed anywhere in the world. I told her that I was doing my best to prevent something else from happening and preventing myself from experiencing severe PTSD. I grew angry at the culture in [Redacted]. My personality began to change. I didn't smile anymore. I always wanted to be alone. I was afraid to open my blinds. I saw my mind changing my behavior to deal with what I was going through. I knew that if I stayed in [Redacted] that I would be changed forever in one of the worst ways possible. So, while I was medically separated from Peace Corps, I feel that most of it was that they pushed me out. I was asking too many questions and demanding fair and reasonable treatment.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps ceased communication with me. I was on my own.
15. (If applicable) The Peace Corps mailed me the form that I could use to see a counselor for three sessions. From there, I was on my own with filing a Workers Comp. claim. I filed a claim on my own, which Workers Comp. accepted, but a year into counseling, they have still not paid my therapist. I am dependent on her kind nature to be willing to see me on a pro bono basis on the contingency that the Workers Comp. payments don't come through. While I know that Workers Comp. is not Peace Corps, they are turning us over to them and I feel that they should better advocate for survivors.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had taken this more seriously and had a procedure to follow. I assumed that they knew what they were doing and it was a very

dangerous assumption. I wish they had given me correct information and worked with me. I think I am very level-headed. They started to treat me like I was trouble and asking for too much. It was clear that they didn't really care about me, but wanted to get me out of the country.

17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask for them to implement policy and training that is survivor-centered and respectful of ALL volunteers. There is a lot of favoritism in Peace Corps, from what I have heard from various volunteers who served in different countries. Some volunteers are deemed 'important' enough to med-evac to DC for support and others are at the mercy of ill-equipped PC in-country staff. The whole issue is in-country. Or at least the bulk of it. In-country staff need to be properly trained to handle sexual assault and take it seriously. Peace Corps operates in countries that can be very misogynistic and which deny crimes committed against women. PC needs to be prepared to compensate for that.

I, Redacted declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 3/14/11

Signed: Redacted

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, **Redacted**, state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is **Reda**, and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted** from June 22, 2008 until March 5, 2009.
2. I was 21 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I believe in service, and I wanted to offer a piece of my life to my global neighbors.
4. Six months and 5 days after I arrived in **Redacted**, I was at a New Year's Eve party in **Redacted**. Around 10:30 pm, after consuming two or three alcoholic drinks, I went for a brief walk on the beach next to **Redacted** Hostel. About a quarter mile from the hostel a local man wearing a yellow soccer jersey approached me. Strangers walking up to me and random marriage proposals were a fact of life in Africa, so I didn't even think twice about him coming so close. I didn't realize something was wrong until he grabbed my left arm, above the elbow. I tried to jerk my arm away and he wouldn't let go. He proceeded to wrap his arm around my neck, with his elbow pressing against my windpipe, and wrestled me to the ground. Throughout, the only thing he said was "I kill you." I screamed at the top of my lungs and he tried to cover my mouth. I think that deep down, I believed that someone would hear me yelling and come to see what was going on. When he covered my mouth, I felt a soul-deep panic. No one could hear me. No one was going to come. I truly believed I was going to die, on this lonely African beach, a million miles from home, at the hands of an unprovoked stranger. I'm trying to explain what it feels like to believe with certainty that you are about to die a violent and pointless death. I don't think I can. Inexplicably, he let go. I lay on the ground for a second before that (far smarter) unconscious part of my brain spoke up: "Run!" And I ran. I wasn't running for long before I ran into two **Redacted** men. I went to them, not sure what I was expecting. At this point, I was a mess, sobbing and stumbling down the beach. One of these two men looked down at me and said "Could you be quiet?"
5. After the assault I did not require medical attention. I just spent the rest of New Year's Eve huddled in a tent trying to figure out what the hell had just happened.
6. When I returned to the hostel I ran to the nearest person I recognized, a **Redacted** **Redacted** tourist. I was too upset to clearly communicate what had just happened, but she could clearly tell something had gone very wrong. She ran to get the Volunteer I was traveling with. Soon, I was in a dormitory with five other volunteers from three different Peace Corps countries trying to figure out what was next. A volunteer serving in **Redacted**, who was in violation of his integration restrictions, bravely called the PC office in **Redacted**, admitted where

we were, and said we needed help. The Country Director for [Redacted] offered to send someone to get my right then. Someone explained that it would be quicker if we just kept our bus reservation to the capital. At 4 am on New Year's day, my friend Jenn and I left [Redacted] for [Redacted], an eight hour drive.

7. The Peace Corps responded by filing a police report with the authorities in [Redacted] on January 2. We returned to [Redacted] later that day. A Peace Corps driver met us at the bus stop in [Redacted] and drove us to the PC office in the capital city of [Redacted]. I was interviewed by our health officer that evening. Our interim country director, who had been in office for about 24 hours at this point, handled my situation with compassion and empathy. In the days and weeks that followed I consulted by phone a Peace Corps psychiatrist, ultimately leading to my decision to leave the Peace Corps.
 8. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. An official report was filed with the [Redacted] Police Department.
 9. I'm not sure a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker could be provided. I was attacked by a complete stranger, in the middle of no where, far from law enforcement. Given the resources of the [Redacted] authorities, I doubt anything Peace Corps could have done would have mattered.
 10. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
 11. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps paid for three evaluative psychiatric visits. After which, the doctor emphatically recommended further treatment. The Peace Corps would not pay, and I was told I did not stand a good chance with workman's compensation. I could not afford treatment on my own. My being out of my country of service at the time of the attack was cited as a key point in my disfavor.
 12. I wish the Peace Corps had helped me seek adequate treatment. It's been two years and I'm still sorting out what that night took from me.
- I, [Redacted], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: March 14, 2011

Signed: /s/ [Redacted]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, **Redacted**, state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is **Redacted**, and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted**, from June 2007 until August 2008.
2. I was 24 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to experience a new culture and share my skills as we learned from each other.
4. Before I was placed in **Redacted**, the Peace Corps provided training on several issues pertaining to volunteer's safety. All trainings were conducted as part of the Pre-Service Training in country. Sessions included unwanted attention, what to do in an unsafe situation and basic overview of sexual assault. It was explained that typical assault situations in **Redacted** surrounded alcohol and drunk men giving women unwanted attention. The Peace Corps Medical Officer (PCMO) explained what would happen if a volunteer reported a sexual assault: the volunteer would be given a medical examination and offered counseling back in Washington. The training group also watched a PC produced film on sexual assault, which lead most volunteers to think that sexual assault occurs when alcohol is mixed with poor decisions.
5. Thirteen months after I arrived in **Redacted** two of my co-workers, two people that I trusted, invited me to a restaurant after work. This type of event happened at least once a week for the previous year. We took a taxi to the restaurant just outside of town and invited the taxi driver to join us inside. During customary meals in **Redacted**, wine is consumed at pretty high rates. We all ate and drank in typical cultural fashion. After the meal, we drove to my apartment first and my friend instructed the taxi driver to walk me up to my apartment, as it was late and dark. The taxi driver did and watched me go inside. I went to bed and a few hours later my doorbell rang. Taxi driver was back. I thought to myself, "did I leave my phone in his car?" I opened the door and he came in. He smelled like alcohol and I suspected he continued to drink after he left a few hours before. I didn't understand why he had come back and he was slurring his speech so that I didn't understand everything he was saying. He told me to sit down on the couch. He proceeded to kiss me. In **Redacted**, I told him to stop and tried to get up. He pulled off my pants and raped me in my living room. After, I got up and tried calling my friend, who was at the restaurant with me, my friend didn't answer (it was 2 am) and he took my phone. He said there was no one that I needed to call. The driver just thought I was playing hard to get. He stayed for a few more minutes following me around the apartment as I tried to contact someone to come over. What felt like an eternity was over after only a few minutes. I was left in my apartment not sure what to do. I questioned myself over and over again. Why did I open the door? Was my language incorrect? Did I not

say the right thing in [Redacted]? Why was I at the restaurant drinking with three men and what message did that send the taxi driver?

My friend came over early the next morning after seeing many missed calls on his phone. I tried explaining what had occurred overnight but my friend could only understand that I was upset and hurt. He did not understand the concept of rape. Women in his mind do not have the right to say no to what a man demands. I felt so lost and blamed myself for being at the restaurant. I stayed inside my apartment all day and finally left when another friend came to bring me food. In typical [Redacted] fashion, I was told to get over my feelings, eat some dinner and move on. So I tried. I made it two weeks and couldn't take it any longer. I had to tell someone that understood what happened. I called another American in a neighboring town and went to visit them. They convinced me to explain the situation to PC.

6. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by calling the Safety and Security Coordinator (SSC) approximately 3 weeks after the incident. I did not report the incident immediately because I feared the consequences. It was my understanding that any sexual assault resulted in the volunteer going back to Washington and would not be able to return to his or her original site upon returning to the country. Additionally because alcohol was involved in the incident I was afraid that I would have violated volunteer guidelines and that repercussions from those actions would overshadow the incident. After the incident, it was another volunteer that convinced me to call Peace Corps and report the incident.
7. After the assault I was medically examined by the PCMO at the PC office in [Redacted]. I met with the SSC to report the incident. The SSC and I discussed the security of my apartment where the incident occurred and made a plan to install additional lighting outside of my front door.
8. The Peace Corps responded by asking me to come to the capital and report to the Peace Corps office immediately. Immediately after making first contact with the Safety and Security Officer, the Program and Training Officer (PTO), who was acting Country Director at the time, called me and asked that I come to [Redacted]. When I got to the Peace Corps Office I met with both the SSC and the PTO. The PTO offered support and explained my legal options to report the incident to [Redacted] authorities. Two months previously I witnessed another volunteer's trial for a similar incident and did not want to go through the same traumatizing experience. [Redacted] law does not protect the victim's name from the media and placed the blame on the victim. It is extremely difficult to prosecute any type of assault in [Redacted] unless the victim is brutally beaten. I knew that reporting the incident to local authorities would only cause more harm.
9. The response by the PTO, SSC and PCMO was adequate for the time being. The PTO especially was comforting and allowed me to recuperate for a few days in the capital before going back to my site. The SSC worked with me to find an

alternate apartment but in the same town. The PTO and PCMO both offered me an opportunity to receive counseling in Washington if I wanted. At the time of reporting I just wanted to get back to my site and get back to work.

10. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. I received a copy of my medical records later and the PCMO recorded relevant details in my PC medical record. A report was filed by the PTO and sent to Washington as well. The PC staff in Washington strongly suggested that I change sites but the PTO defended my decision to stay in the same town that I had been living in.
11. The Peace Corps provided me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. Unfortunately prosecution does not offer many results in **Redacted** but this is not at the fault of PC. The previous volunteer, who had pressed sexual assault charges against a **Redacted**, was supported by PC and PC help to find an educated lawyer to represent that volunteer. I knew that if I wanted to move forward and press charges that PC would support me.
12. The Peace Corps did take the appropriate steps after I reported the assault but the process could be improved. Because multiple people needed information, I retold the incident details to multiple people in the PC office. Each time retelling the story, I was reliving the details of that night. Additionally, one reason why I hesitated to report the event was that I knew a consequence was relocation of the volunteer. PC Washington's immediate response was to move me. That does not solve the problem and causes double trauma. While I am trying to recuperate I would have to reacclimatize to a new community. Staying in the same town allowed me to return to friends and supportive people. During my Close of Service medical exam, the doctor provided me a form, a 127C, for three pre-approved therapy visits once I was back in the states.
13. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. It was up to me to determine how many details to share with other volunteers. During the summer of 2009, I returned to **Redacted** for work and spoke during a training session for new volunteers sharing my experience.
14. I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
15. Once I returned to the United States, the Office of Medical Services (OMS), Post-Service Unit referred me to the Department of Labor (OWCP) to file a worker's comp claim for additional therapy treatments. I interacted with staff from OMS at a RPCV event and they advised me to file the claim and seek out a doctor that I felt comfortable working with. OMS returned my phone calls in a timely manner as I had questions completing the forms.
16. The Peace Corps referred me to another agency to obtain the benefits I needed to recover. OMS directed me to the PC website for the forms needed to file a worker comp claim. I filed the appropriate paperwork and submitted the forms for

additional therapy sessions (beyond the 3 initially covered by the 127c). I received a letter that my application was received and OWCP was reviewing my application. A few weeks later I received a letter that my claim was denied because they could not determine my incident occurred during my PC service. I appealed, this time including my entire PC medical record that documented the incident from my PCMO in **Redacted** and a letter from my therapist that I was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). A few weeks later, I received a second denial letter because my therapist is not a registered psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist. She is a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist and when I chose a doctor I did not understand the differences between titles for a therapist. OWCP required that I obtain a letter from a registered psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist stating that I had PTSD. I paid out of pocket to see a second doctor and have them write a letter to OWCP stating such.

Upon returning the states, I had medical coverage through Corps Care but my doctor did not accept this insurance and I paid out of pocket for all treatment sessions. During the entire appeal process I continued to pursue treatment and pay for each \$150 weekly session fee out of pocket and just hoped that my claim would be accepted eventually. In between letters there were dozens of phone calls to clarify what forms and signatures OWCP required. Rarely did I receive anyone on the first phone call and waited for OWCP to return my call. This made it difficult to discuss openly with OWCP staff the situation because they operate during normal business hours when I was not free to talk about personal matters. My case moved to three different people at OWCP during this process. Each time my case moved, I had to explain my claim, the details of the assault and my treatment.

A few weeks after the second appeal OWCP accepted my claim and gave me additional forms to file for reimbursement of medical expenses. I was so frustrated during the appeal process that I contacted my Congressional Representatives and asked for their guidance. When I posed questions to OMS about appealing OWCP's decision, they referred me back to OWCP and the PC website for further information. This entire process took 9 months to finish and I had spent thousands in out of pocket expenses.

17. I wish the Peace Corps had instructed me at the beginning of the process, when I received my 127C, that I should choose a registered psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist to receive treatment. Luckily I had the financial means to continue treatment while my claim was being processed but not all RPCVs are in the same situation when returning to the states. I waited nine months for a decision and that is a very long time to suffer if it can be treated faster.
18. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that PC should work with OWCP to allow registered therapist to provide mental treatment. A registered therapist can provide the same if not better treatment to PTSD patients.

I, **Redacted**, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 18, 2011

Signed: **Redacted**

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

My name is [REDACTED] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED] from September 2006 until November 2007. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.

I chose to join the Peace Corps because it had been a lifelong dream of mine to join the organization and work in a developing country. I was excited to be a working part of change and I was immensely proud to be a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Before I was placed in [REDACTED] the Peace Corps did provide safety training but did not overtly discuss sexual assault. We were led to believe that [REDACTED] was a relatively safe country. As best as I can recollect, they reported only one case of sexual assault prior to my arrival.

It was 13 months after I arrived in [REDACTED] when I was drugged and sexually assaulted. On October 6, 2007 I was at a restaurant with friends in a nearby town called [REDACTED]. We were approached by a young man who bought drinks for us. He gave me a particular drink, which I later determined was drugged. Immediately after drinking this beverage, I have almost no memory of what happened. Only once during the evening did I "wake up" and it was in the midst of my sexual assault. However, the amount of the drug I ingested prevented me from being able to stop the assault.

After the assault, I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by contacting the Peace Corps Medical Office. The Peace Corps responded by recommending that I come to their office in the capital, [REDACTED]. Since there was a possibility that I had been exposed to HIV, they recommended that I begin a month-long course of Post Exposure Prophylactic (PEP).

When I arrived, the medical team instructed me to write out the events of the evening and assumed that I had been intoxicated. In fact, the medical officer on duty later wrote in my statement, without my consent, that I had "been drunk" the evening of the incident. Also, while performing various tests, a Peace Corps nurse also told me, in an accusing tone, "This is why you women should not drink." The doctor performed a pelvic examination and explained that had both abrasions and bleeding. She then gave me a month supply of PEP and made an appointment with a psychologist the following day. After seeing the psychologist, I was instructed to return to my site and to return to the office in a month to be tested for HIV.

The Peace Corps did not immediately take action to document or even acknowledged that a crime had been committed against me. Given the nature of the trauma, I suffered from symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (anxiety, crying fits, nightmares, hypervigilance, etc). I was having an extremely difficult time coping at my site. It was not until I contacted the [REDACTED] Country Director that Peace Corps acknowledged that I had been assaulted. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. I was not actually interested in finding and/or prosecuting my attacker. I was more interested in returning home to the United States.

After contacting the Country Director, the Peace Corps did provide assistance by recommending that I return to [REDACTED] temporarily to speak to a psychologist in Washington D.C. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me.

The psychologist in Washington D.C. determined that I needed to be Medically Evacuated to my hometown of [REDACTED] to undergo psychological treatment to determine if I could return to [REDACTED]. I arrived in [REDACTED] on October 31st 2007 and received treatment until November 30th. I had three sessions with a counselor, who recommended that I not return to [REDACTED] given the severity of my symptoms. As a result, I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps. I was Medically Separated from Peace Corps on November 30th, 2007.

The Peace Corps then provided three sessions of psychological treatment. The Peace Corps provided information about Workman's Compensation to receive treatment after these three sessions but I was not informed that an evaluation had to be completed by a Psychologist or Psychiatrist. I provided an evaluation from my counselor and my claim was denied. I was not informed by Peace Corps that I could still reapply. I paid out of pocket for the psychological treatment I have received and for the anti-depressant and anti-anxiety drugs I was prescribed.

I wish the Peace Corps had been more available when I returned to the United States. I was dealing with both my sexual assault and my unexpected, abrupt and truly disappointing return to the United States. My PTSD symptoms and depression were crippling. I went without psychological care for an extended amount of time simply because I could not afford treatment or even navigate the system on my own.

If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, it would be to revamp their services for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have suffered sexual assault. I feel that women returning under these circumstances should be assigned a readily available advocate at Peace Corps who can help them understand the process and promptly receive the assistance they so desperately need. They also need to make funding more available for psychological treatment. I also feel that Peace Corps should better train medical staff abroad on how to respond appropriately to victims of sexual assault. I believe that the guilt and shame I experienced and continue to feel since my assault stems largely from the lack of knowledge, training or sensitivity of the Peace Corps medical office team in [REDACTED].

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 2/17/2011

Signed [REDACTED]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, **Redacted**, state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

(Only if applicable, include the following: I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.)

1. My name is **Redacted** and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted** from 6/2006 until 7/2007.
2. I was 22 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I want to live and work in another culture and Peace Corps mission and values were very similar to my own. I also believed that Peace Corps had a program including safety and security that was much more developed and well-run than other international work or live abroad programs.
4. Before I was placed in **Redacted** the Peace Corps sent me a packet as an invitee that addressed the issue in brief. I was able to hand my parents a paper that included some safety information. I remember a portion of training at PST that addressed the issue. I remember a one hour session during my in-country training where we watched the Serving Safely video. I remember that it was extremely outdated and that the women were very apologetic about their experiences. I remember the take-aways being "don't drink" and "don't run in site". We also had a self-defense type class for a few hours during in-country training.
5. 13 months after I arrived in **Redacted** I was raped by a former intimate partner. The entire incident including stalking and harassment as well. I felt very anxious at the time and was worried for my safety. The perpetrator threatened my life on one occasion.. Looking back I was certainly unsafe. I did not feel comfortable reporting to local authorities because there were a number of the perpetrator's family members on the local police force.
6. After the assault(s), I felt unsure about what Peace Corps was going to tell me to do. I felt that I had to figure out exactly what I wanted to happen in order to have control over the process. I read the handbook for guidance but still wasn't quite sure what the process was. I finally reported to the PCMO. At the time I was in a trauma state of mind and could not say the word "rape". The PCMO asked me, "Should I feel sorry for you? Or not?" I had no idea what to say. I told her that I had been forced and she seemed to understand. English was not her first language and I remember thinking that I could not convey my thoughts with the

Spanish vocabulary that I knew at the time. The PCMO told me that once I had decided to leave, that I had 72 hours to leave the country. At that point I had decided it was best for me to leave, but she allowed me to go back to my site to say goodbye to my family. At no time did she conduct a safety assessment to ensure that the perpetrator would not harm me during that time. I then went back to the office (a seven hour bus ride) the following week.

7. I did not report the incident officially to Peace Corps. I felt very shamed and could only take care of myself in the moment. I did not trust my Program staff, nor any of the commanding staff at the post to handle my story with sensitivity or care. I believed that they would "need" to tell all of the staff at the office and I did not want to be labeled. I especially did not want to discuss it with multiple people or have their opinions related to me. I did not feel safe reporting. At no time did the nurse ever mention prosecuting the perpetrator or ask if I had considered that option. I also never received referrals for counseling or medical services.
8. **N/A** The Peace Corps responded by _____ (Please describe the Peace Corps' response to your report while you were in-country; include whether the response was sympathetic, adequate, or timely).
9. **N/A** The Peace Corps _____ (did/did not) take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. _____ (If the Peace Corps did try to document the crime, please explain how).
10. **N/A** The Peace Corps _____ (provided/did not provide) me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker(s). _____ (Please explain how the Peace Corps helped or hindered your ability to prosecute).
11. The Peace Corps did not put into place an environment that was safe for reporting. I did not feel comfortable speaking with the program staff and I did not want to repeat my story multiple times. I felt I would be blamed and at that point, I felt that I only had enough energy to take care of myself. I did appreciate that the nurse told me what the process would be once I told program staff that I wanted to leave the country. She helped me to find words; in effect I left for "personal reasons." She also helped me to navigate the numerous medical tests that I had to undergo in order to leave the country.
12. Peace Corps did not give me any guidance regarding how to tell my story to others. The PCMO did help me to find words to speak to program staff. She also encouraged me to call my parents and tell them what had happened.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps did not follow up. I remember trying to contact them regarding insurance so that I could receive necessary medical attention. The process was arduous to connect with someone as I called the RPCV office in DC, and was then forwarded to the insurance claims company. They were unable to assist me in navigating insurance because

of the sensitive nature of my case. In the end, it was much easier for me to get insurance through Medicaid than it was to continue with Peace Corps insurance.

15. Peace Corps did not help me obtain any benefits.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had portrayed crime as it actually happens. According to their reports, many incidents take place between people that the victims already know and are in the victim's site. I was only prepared for "stranger in the bushes" attacks that weren't in my site. I felt particularly shamed and blamed because what happened to me happened outside of their definition of what constituted a crime. I would have greatly appreciated knowing the exact steps to take after the crime occurred, and being assured before and after the crime that there was a "safe place" for me at the office. I would have appreciated confidentiality.
17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that they install Victim Advocates at all posts who are prepared to address victims of crime. This would include an immediate safety assessment and compassionate advocacy as the victim navigates the medical and legal systems.

I, Redacted, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

4/21/11

Signed:

Redacted

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [REDACTED] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED] from March 2006 until July 2007.
2. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted an adventure, the opportunity to do something meaningful and rewarding, help those who wanted it, travel the world, and gain skills that would better equip me in my future.
4. Before I was placed in [REDACTED], the Peace Corps provided a video on sexual assault that portrayed three women who were raped while drinking. The Safety and Security Officer spoke about "integrating" into the community and "staying vigilant" to help stay safe and the Medical Officers provided information on medical procedure following an assault. Training on this issue was very limited and we were not given information on previous assaults, how they were handled, and what happens afterward, and the options that will be presented to the PCV in the event of a sexual assault. The tone was more along the lines of if the PCV follows these guidelines – not drinking, staying out late, etc. - they will be safe.

In [REDACTED], I always experience a lot of sexual harassment, and as hard as it was to endure that, it was never threatening and I never felt afraid. I had expressed to my Country Director and Program Manager how I wasn't doing very well with the harassment, but I never requested to leave my site. I didn't want to leave my site, but I didn't feel like I could really process the harassment and the emotional toll it took on me. I knew this was a part of being a female volunteer, but it doesn't make it any easier to just ignore it. In December 2006, a group of men on my commute home threatened to gang rape me. Though it wasn't my intention to report it, my PM happened to call me the next day and I broke down and told her what happened. I was so confused and afraid. She allowed me to stay in the capital for the weekend and I saw a therapist, who was very concerned for my safety and though it was his recommendation that I be moved, this was never discussed with my PC staff.

5. Eleven months after I arrived in [REDACTED], and one month after the threat, I was assaulted while riding my bike home from work one afternoon. A man followed me on his bike, and as I was going slowly up a hill, he came up behind me, put his arm around my neck, and dragged me into the bushes, where he pinned me down and strangled me. I struggled to get away and finally, after grabbing and squeezing his testicles with my free hand, I was able to run away. The entire struggle took maybe 5 minutes.

6. After breaking free, I ran to a neighbor's house who called the PC office and the Safety and Security Officer immediately started the 1 hour drive to my village. Though I asked for the police not to be called, the neighbor whose house I was at did call the police and they, as well as, the media showed up at the house where I was. I hid in the bathroom and refused to talk to anyone until the SSO came. When he did, I had to give a police statement at the house and drive back to the scene of the assault with the officers, where they were making a failed attempt at garnering evidence. After several hours, I had to go to the police station with the SSO to file another report. It was not clear if the police were looking for the perpetrator and I had no choice but to give another statement, despite the inappropriateness, insensitivity, and lack of training of the officer. After the report was filed, about 2 hours, the SSO told me he will never make another PCV do that because of how unprofessional the police officers were.
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by coming into the office the next day, after spending the night with another volunteer in the capital, and explaining again what happened to various PC staff. I met with the SSO, the PCMO, and my PM. They said they would support me whether I wanted to stay or return to the U.S., and whether I wanted to press charges or not. I chose not to press charges because I was familiar enough with the [REDACTED] legal system to know they would not find the perpetrator and if they did, I would endure a grueling and humiliating trial that would most likely result in further putting me at risk. The police did not pursue the case in Linden, anyway.
8. The Peace Corps responded by allowing me to stay with a volunteer and seeing the therapist while I was in the capital, who I saw for 3 or 4 times. It was my choice to stay in country, but I requested a site change. I wanted to stay in [REDACTED] because it was my home — I loved my work, my community, and my friends, but I knew I was unsafe in [REDACTED]. I wanted to be in a quieter, more rural village, where other volunteers did not experience the serious sexual harassment that I did. It was never presented to me to see the therapist for an extended period of time or return to D.C. for therapy, which is an option for PCVs who have been assaulted.
9. The Peace Corps did, I believe, take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. However, I was never contacted by PC Headquarters or spoke with someone in DC, which I have also come to learn is an option. I know there is a psycho-therapist on staff at HQ that other PCVs have spoken to, and now, I believe that would have been a great option for me because I was then placed so far from the capital, it made it impossible to see my therapist there who recommended consistent sessions, but that was not followed through on PC's part.
10. The Peace Corps did give me the option to press charges and told me they would support me. However, I chose not to because of my experience with the police. The officers in [REDACTED] were not only unprofessional with me during my report, but these men sexually harassed me for the 9 months I was in [REDACTED]

before my assault. I did not trust them. My CD told me that while they will support me, he wanted me to understand these things can take much longer than in the U.S. and it is not the system we are used to. I respected this opinion and I agreed.

11. The Peace Corps did not understand that three therapy sessions really wasn't enough. I was placed 6 hours from the capital which made it really hard to come in for therapy. I was put on medication, which was fine at the time, but I believed would have been more effective with psychotherapy as well. When I called to request an appointment, the PCMO was not supportive and asked if she could have the medication just sent to me in my site. Feeling confused and not in a position to advocate for myself, I said that was fine. I didn't feel comfortable asking to come in for therapy, though I knew that's what I needed. Though I was glad to be in a new site, I still experienced a lot of PTSD, from the harassment I received in my new site. I was not coping well in the absence of therapy, and I relied heavily on my fellow volunteers, working all day, staying in my home, and being in denial. Rarely did a PC staff person call to check on me when I was in a new site.
12. Peace Corps did not really address the issue of me talking to others about what happened. While my friends knew, some others knew because of PC staff were not confidential. My CD talked about what happened in front of other volunteers that I was not comfortable with talking to about it. I relied so much on my friends, but they were not equipped to really help me, though they were great. Now, I understand how scary this must have been for them, too, because they were trying to help me, but they were afraid for their safety to. It would have been nice to have PC facilitate some sort of session for processing, so we could talk about how afraid we all were.
13. I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps. In July 2007, I was medically separated. In June, my friend's home was broken into and she called me to come support her. Seeing her devastated and afraid, I was triggered and not coping well with supporting her. It was like my assault happened all over again and I realized how much in denial I was. I had not been in therapy and I was relying on unhealthy coping strategies. My friend and I were pulled into the capital after her break in and I saw the therapist who recommended I return home because it was clear PC could not support me in the way that was necessary for my health and safety. For some reason, when we were brought to town, I also was able to speak with the doctor in DC who knew nothing of my assault. After speaking with him, he recommended I be medically separated to my staff and I was told that I was returning home. I was heartbroken, though I knew it was the best thing. I was just so saddened that it had come to this because I wanted desperately to stay in [REDACTED] and finish my stint. I believe that, with consistent therapy and more support from staff, I could have avoided the separation.

14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps, I knew I had three sessions with a therapist before I would have to file a worker's compensation claim. I found a doctor through the PC medical site that listed doctors in [REDACTED] that were in the network. I had three sessions with a doctor in [REDACTED], they were all covered by PC under the PC-127 form I was given, then I filed a claim with the DOL to cover the next few sessions and my future sessions. In the meantime, I decided to move to [REDACTED] because I couldn't cope with being in [REDACTED]. I was running away from friends and family who didn't understand why I was home or why I wasn't happy to be home. I was in complete denial over what happened to me and I could not adjust to living in the U.S. I felt completely alone.

15. When I moved to [REDACTED] could not find a doctor that DOL would approve for covering sessions with. Though my file was approved for Worker's Comp, payment was rejected for all my sessions in [REDACTED] because of some filing and documentation error. I called DOL numerous times and each time, I spoke with a different person who gave me different directions. I was doing this all myself and in the state I was in, I could not do it alone. Nothing about the process made sense. I lived in a rural town in [REDACTED] and I could not find a doctor DOL would approve. Eventually, I gave up trying to get my sessions covered and ended up paying over \$1500 in therapy out of pocket. Because of the financial burden, I stopped therapy altogether. It was just too hard and nobody seemed to be taking my situation seriously. I never heard from Peace Corps HQ or in [REDACTED] after I was separated. I felt so alone, like no one cared, so I just stopped caring.

In an attempt to find some closure, I was able to serve as a Response Volunteer in [REDACTED] last year. I'm so glad I did, but of course, it didn't give me what I was hoping for. When I was in [REDACTED], I struggled with disclosing my experience to the trainees. I didn't want to scare them, but I wanted them to know it doesn't have to be a reason to end your service. After we watched the sexual assault video, many trainees complained about how unrealistic and how victim-blaming it was. I approached my country director, training coordinator and Safety and Security officer to see if I could speak to the trainees about my experience, feeling I could share positive, constructive information. They said no. My roommate asked me if anyone in my group had been assaulted and I said, "Yeah, me." She was horrified and asked if she could get a group of the other female trainees together because they were so freaked out about it happening and felt the staff wasn't talking about it. I agreed and, after an hour discussion after dinner one night, the women thanked me. They continue to thank me as more and more watch the 20/20 report.

16. I wish the Peace Corps had given me the option to return to D.C. for 6 weeks of therapy, like other volunteers. I wish I was supported – no questions asked – when I called in to make an appointment with the therapist. I wish my staff understood that it does a disservice to volunteers to only speak of the issue in the context of drinking, being out at night, and not being well integrated - this puts the responsibility on the volunteer, so if something does happen, it would only be natural for the volunteer to further

blame themselves. When I was assaulted, I didn't know what I needed. Why couldn't someone at my post know that one or two appointments wouldn't be enough? Why, after being separated, couldn't someone help me filing worker's compensation? I wish I heard from HQ or [REDACTED] after I was sent home, to make me feel like I wasn't so alone. It was like I never served as a volunteer, that what happened to me didn't matter, that I didn't matter.

I wish the PC knew how hard my life has been in the last four years, that while they may have forgotten or never knew what happened, I haven't. I wish they knew that I have a hard time making friends, have difficulty maintaining intimate relationships, and sometimes, I can't sleep at night because my assault is all I can think about. I wish they knew that it's only been in the last three months that I am able to get therapy because it is offered free for students where I go to graduate school. I wish they knew that what I talk most about in therapy is the eating disorder I now have and how lucky my school and therapist care enough about me to offer the support for free, for as long as I'm a student there. I wish the PC knew how stressed out I am for when I'm no longer a student because I don't know how I will afford therapy.

I wish they knew that all I wanted to do was finish my service and that feeling drove me to serve again in [REDACTED] -- there should be no doubt that I love the organization and I believe they can do so much more to support volunteers. I wish the PC knew what my life has been like since I was assaulted and sent home because if they did, I think they would do things so differently.

17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask them to imagine being dragged into the bushes to be raped, to imagine how they would feel, how afraid they would be. I would ask them to then imagine how difficult it would be to explain what they need, how they'd like to be supported, and how they can feel safe again.

I would ask the PC to take the recommendations of First Response Action very seriously and to ask volunteers who have been assaulted for advice on how better to support current volunteers. I would want them to allow a more realistic conversation to be included in PST training and for staff, both local and Americans, to be trained in sexual assault response. I would ask the Peace Corps to be a model organization in the way they support and respond to volunteers who have been sexually assaulted because Americans will always sign up to serve and we cannot prevent sexual violence, but we can better support the survivors and be more transparent about how the organization responds to such situations.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: February 20, 2011

Signed: [REDACTED]

Peace Corps Volunteer Affidavit

I, **Redacted**, state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is **Redacted** and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted**, from February 2004 until April 2006.
2. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to learn about another culture and hoped that I was able to assist a community in their need for a trained worker.
4. Before I was placed in **Redacted**, the Peace Corps gave our omnibus information on how to avoid contracting STDs from willing sexual contact. Following this information we watched a video that briefly discussed sexual assault in Peace Corps. I believe it was approximately 20 minutes in length and there was no further discussion afterwards.
5. One year and five months after I arrived in **Redacted**, I found myself hanging out with a group of youth one night celebrating the birthday of the community's president, a young man himself. I had been sent to my community to work with the youth but since locating in the community I'd had a difficult time with them accepting me. It wasn't until a few months before this night that I had actually started being invited to events and I was excited that I was hosting the birthday party at my house. Most of these events were held at night and this party was no exception. The celebration went until late at night and I accepted a drink of homemade alcohol from some of these young men even though I had never drank in my site before and rarely consumed alcohol at other times. It was not the smartest thing to do. We left my house and continued the party- dancing at the home of a neighbor. At some point during the festivities I found myself separated from the group and alone with the President of the community. We started kissing and ended up going back to my place. During this time he attempted to take off my clothes many times and I kept telling him no, that I didn't want to have sex. I'd only ever had sex with one person, a long-term boyfriend, that I'd been with for nearly two years before Peace Corps. It was at this point that he pulled down my pants and sodomized and raped me. I don't clearly remember the assault in specifics other than to say that I repeatedly said no and told him he was hurting me. When he was done he gave me a kiss and told me that he had to get home. Crying and physically hurt, I took a shower and tried to distance myself from what had happened as much as possible.
6. After the assault I had no intention of talking about what had happened with anyone. I blamed myself for the bad decisions that I made and was afraid and confused. I unsuccessfully attempted to distance myself from my attacker but because of cultural differences, his perception of western women, and to a lesser extent the language barrier (vocabularly concerning rape) he insisted that he did not assault me despite me having said no. It wasn't until I broke down in front of a fellow PCV that I told someone I had been assaulted and was concerned about possible STDs. It was at that point that I approached my PCMOs, two nurses, at

PC Headquarters in the capital city and told them about the situation. I was so upset I could barely talk about the incident and refused to label it a sexual assault after I was shown the flow chart of who had to be contacted and what I'd have to go through following a sexual assault. There were no fewer than 15 people on that list, many of whom I had no confidence in, including the Country Director. They told me it was my choice how I wanted to proceed, but that they wanted me to know what would happen after I made an official report. I just couldn't do it. I kept thinking about all the time that I had spent in my community and I felt like I had enough taken away from me and I wasn't going to leave my community because of the assault. The nurses allowed me to stay in the capital for a few days while I underwent medical exams related to an "unprotected sexual encounter." I also went to see a counselor during this time. However, after our initial visit where she asked me to admit to the actions that made the incident my fault I had no trust in sharing what had happened with her. I continued to have anxiety over the assault and was prescribed sleeping pills to help with my insomnia.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by telling the PCMOs. I arrived in the capital city of [REDACTED] and went by their office.
8. The Peace Corps, through the PCMOs, responded by allowing me to decide how I wanted to proceed and were sympathetic to what I was going through. The PCMOs allowed me to understand the process of sexual assault and were the only advocates for me throughout this process.
9. The Peace Corps, through the action of the PCMOs, did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. However, I found that it did not leave room for me to be truthful about the situation and control who became aware of my assault. Instead of empowering me I felt like I had one choice if I decided not to prosecute my attacker and that was to lie and say that it was a "sexual encounter." Because as soon as I labeled it "sexual assault," I had to go through the process of telling all these people in the PC administration. Additionally, I had recently witnessed about a month before my assault what had happened to another female volunteer within my Omnibus who had been sexually assaulted. She was immediately pulled out of her community and then medically separated from PC. I knew that I didn't want that to happen to me and then have to face all the questions about why I had been sent home. I was determined to stay in my community and finish what I had started there.
10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker in a way that was comfortable to me. Had I been given the opportunity and support to talk about my assault when I was ready, I would have welcomed the opportunity to confront and perhaps prosecute the man who violated me.
11. The Peace Corps did not have an understanding of a person, like myself, who needed time to process what had happened before they were ready to talk about their assault, and in turn, share it with a number of PC administrators. I do admit that I was so blinded by denial surrounding my assault that I lied by saying I was not assaulted so that I would not have to go through the humiliation of recounting my story over and over again. While Peace Corps did have a

- procedure in place for dealing with sexual assault, it did not realistically address the emotional aspect of sexual assault.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me.
 13. I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps. This only came, however, after I was forced to move sites due to security concerns. I began receiving a number of threatening text messages and comments from young men within the community which was followed by a break-in and burglary of my home. When I realized that I could no longer do the work that I was in the community to do I requested a site change. It was at this time that the Country Director, **Redacted** **Redacted** found out about the incident and called me into his office to find out what happened. He told me that if I did not tell him what happened he would send me home. I told him that I did not want to discuss what happened and that I was trying to deal with things in my own time. He demanded that I tell him and again threatened to send me home right then and there without returning to my site. I told him what had happened and he told me that he was unsure about whether or not he was going to let me remain in **Redacted**. A few weeks later I was granted a change of site.
 14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps allowed me to see a gynecologist to follow-up with an abnormal papsmear that I had before close of service.
 15. I wish the Peace Corps had put in place a process for volunteers, like myself, who felt like they could not label their incident a sexual assault because they did not trust the administrators within their country of service. For me, having a Country Director who was not sensitive to my assault and who did not keep my confidence made it impossible for me to come forward and give the details of the assault at the time it occurred. Additionally, after I was granted a site change I became aware that there were staff and other volunteers in the Peace Corps office gossiping about what had happened to me which of course deepened my distrust in the country team who I thought should have been supporting me. It wasn't until after I finished my term as a PCV and requested a copy of my medical folder that I became aware of a document written by my APCD that stated that I'd had a "brief relationship" with the man who had assaulted me and stated that I'd been asked to leave the community by this same man, the President of the community. It made me sick to my stomach. I do realize that the circumstances surrounding my sexual assault are unique, but I believe that it's unrealistic to assume that PCVs are receiving the support that they need from their respective country teams when an assault like this occurs. What do you do when you feel like you're being intimidated by your Country Director? Compound this intimidation with the stress of experiencing a sexual assault and you have a PCV who feels like they are unable to come forward about their experience. I realize that it may be difficult to believe Peace Corps administrators are capable of these acts, but I would like to point out that my former Country Director, **Redacted** **Redacted** pled guilty on December 20, 2010 to one count of engaging in unauthorized activities in a matter affecting the U.S. government. Unfortunately

his corruption and dishonesty while leading Peace Corps [Redacted] was not limited to the activities to which he has pled guilty.

16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that they understand the benefits of implementing a program that addresses sexual assault, both emotionally and physically. In terms of programmatic benefits, empowering someone who has been sexually assaulted not only strengthens the institution of Peace Corps by producing a survivor of sexual assault who can positively describe how he or she overcame the assault with the help of Peace Corps but it also allows individuals to continue to believe in the reasons why they originally joined Peace Corps. It's been nearly six years since I was assaulted and while I still love what Peace Corps stands for, it's difficult to reconcile those feelings with the feelings I have concerning my assault and how it was dealt with. Creating a program for survivors of sexual assault is necessary for the continued viability of Peace Corps and essential in maintaining a program that Sargent Shriver would be proud of.

I, [Redacted] declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 19, 2011

Signed: /s/ [Redacted]

Peace Corps Volunteer Affidavit

I, [Redacted] state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [Redacted], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in the [Redacted] [Redacted] from February, 2004 until November, 2004.
2. I was 27 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to serve my country, experience a new culture in a unique way, help a developing or distressed economy become stronger and use experience gained while in the Peace Corps to fulfill my personal dream of working in International Labor Law.
4. Before I was placed in the [Redacted], the Peace Corps did not provide me with training regarding sexual assault. I had two days of training in Philadelphia before leaving the country for [Redacted].
5. About two months after I arrived in the [Redacted], I experienced the first threatening situation that I would encounter while in-country. At that time, PCVs in [Redacted] spent several weeks in a training village before being moved to their home village. The home village I'd been assigned to live in for the next two years did not have a host family willing to take a PCV. In spite of that, I was driven to a home that was unprepared for a volunteer where I spent four days without food or clean water. Additionally, there were a lot of young men in and out of the home and in the middle of the night some of these men tried to enter my room. When I called the Peace Corps office to ask to be removed I was not taken seriously. After four days all volunteers returned to a training location to debrief. It was decided that the home I had stayed in was inappropriate and another host family would be found. I later learned that the woman I'd stayed with for four days was a prostitute (which explained why there were so many men in and out of her house!). The next host family initially seemed better. There was food, of course no electricity or running water but that was expected, and I had my own room (although without locks on the doors). Within a few weeks, however, my host "father" had begun acting inappropriately, following me around, staring in the windows of my room, peeking through the curtains, etc. I asked him to stop. He told me that he was my protector (my "padroni") and he did not change his behavior. After I'd been in the this home for about four months, the family I lived with told me that they were arranging me to be kidnapped into marriage. According to them, they had also arranged for a [Redacted] teacher in the village to be kidnapped several years earlier; my host father had been the driver of the car. Arranged kidnappings of women for marriage are very common in [Redacted] and, while I knew that this happened to [Redacted] women I did not expect to encounter it myself. I vehemently informed my host family that I did NOT want to be kidnapped. On Friday of that week I went to [Redacted] and reported

what happened to the Peace Corps security officer. She told me not to worry, that if I was kidnapped "my government would rescue me". I returned to my home village. Men in the village had become increasingly bold, harassing me as I walked to work each morning and afternoon. My host father reminded me repeatedly that he was the reason that the village men would not hurt me. I went back to the Peace Corps office that weekend and reported feeling unsafe and threatened by my host father. Again, I was not taken seriously. I returned to my host family's home. Things did not improve. I was never sure if the next car to pull up outside the home would be men prepared to kidnap me. It was unsettling. A "family friend" offered to drive me to the capital the next weekend. I wanted to tell Peace Corps that I needed to be moved. I thought that another family in the village was willing to host me and hoped to make a safe transition. The man who offered to drive me to the capital then refused to take me to [Redacted]. He drove me off the highway and into some woods. He tried to touch me and repeatedly tried to coerce me to have sex with him. He then drove me to an abandoned construction site where the coercion continued. He told me that my host father had suggested that he drive me somewhere; indeed, I had accepted the ride on the encouragement of my host father. Finally, after several hours, this man drove me to the capital and stopped the car on the edge of the city. I took a bus to the Peace Corps office and reported what had happened. I was advised not to ride in a car with anyone ever again. I was told that moving to a new host family was not an option. I returned to my village. A few weeks later, after more threats of an impending kidnapping and a few more trips to the PC office to request being moved, an unexpected thing happened. My host father came into my room in the middle of the night and raped me. I was terrified. I had thought that I might be kidnapped. I did not think that this man, with a four year old son and wife in the next room, would do this to me. I chose not to report this final incident. I was ashamed. I had lost all faith in the Peace Corp to listen to me. Two weeks later I went to the Peace Corps office and informed them that I was going home (back to the States)..

6. After the assaults and repeated incidents had been ignored, I chose to leave the Peace Corps. I loved the country I was living in and had made some very close friends among the [Redacted] people that I hated to leave. However, I felt that it was not safe for me to stay.
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by going to the Peace Corps office repeatedly and telling the security office and homestay coordinators what was happening.
8. The Peace Corps responded by disregarding and/or downplaying my concerns.
9. The Peace Corps did not take action to document that a crime had been committed against me.
10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker(s).
11. The Peace Corps did not take my experience seriously. I was in an unsafe situation for months; reacting early would have saved me having to spend the rest of my life as a survivor of a rape.

12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps did not follow up with me at all.
15. I wish that the Peace Corps had spent more time finding appropriate host families for me to live with before I was placed in my village. I wish that the Peace Corps had taken immediate, concrete steps to make it possible for me to safely complete two years of service. I wish the Peace Corps had listened to me when I informed them that the situation I was living in was unsafe. I wish the Peace Corps had provided me with information about what to do in the case of a sexual assault. I wish that the Peace Corps had made support for sexual assault victims a part of the training that I received so that I might have known better how to handle the dangerous and hurtful situations I encountered. I wish that the Peace Corps had taken my safety seriously.
16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that the Peace Corps make volunteer safety their highest priority.

I, Redacted, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 25, 2011

Signed: Redacted

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [REDACTED], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED], from June 2001 until April 2002.
2. I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I was in love with culture and differences in the world. After living in [REDACTED] as an exchange student in high school, I wanted to return to an environment that was challenging, eye-opening, showed me various perspectives, exposed me to different practices and enabled me to explore both the beauty and the ugly of the world.
4. Before I was placed in [REDACTED] the Peace Corps held staging in [REDACTED]. I remember everything about arriving in [REDACTED] in June of 2002; I was so excited to embark on the journey of a lifetime. My Peace Corps assignment was a health volunteer position in [REDACTED]. After a quick three day staging, which included introductions to Peace Corps staff we left for a second retreat in [REDACTED]. At a brief orientation Peace Corps explained the recent uprisings, shedding light on the dividing nature of the [REDACTED], constantly vying for power and often rotating control over the country. Recent elections had led to riots that crippled the city and kept volunteers sequestered in their homes. Peace Corps gave us security briefings and kept us together as things calmed down. Shortly after arriving in country we began 3 months of training, we learned about [REDACTED] culture, transportation, local health concerns, training techniques and discussed how to fit in our communities. I felt a lot of the information Peace Corps gave us came through a lens of blame, any negative past experience faulted volunteers for causing bad things to happen. But I also knew, after having lived as an exchange student with a host family for a year in [REDACTED] that different cultures label different behaviors as provocative and that some of the ways I learned to express myself and my femininity invited unwanted attention from men.

Towards the middle of training we went on site visits to stay with volunteers from previous groups. It was during this experience that I heard rumors about the number of female volunteers that were sexually assaulted or raped in [REDACTED]. I remember one of the "active" and "vocal" volunteers telling me the statistic reached 30%. I was also told about 3 volunteers who terminated their service early, all on the same day as a result of how Peace Corps [REDACTED] handled a sexual assault. When we returned to training I brought this up for discussion with Peace Corps staff. They responded with a list of things we should and shouldn't do. They told us not to jog with headphones on or early in the morning or late at night. They told us not to wear clothing that was too revealing. I left the

conversation happy that it had been addressed but unsettled that we were individually responsible for preventing bad things from happening to us.

5. In September of 2001, I was placed in an [REDACTED]. A four hour ride from the road, through the sandy prairie in the back of a pick up truck, I arrived to a small collection of houses surrounded by palm trees. I was given government housing and would work in the health clinic. As peaceful as [REDACTED] was, it was also very lonely. I was the only volunteer in a very small community. I went from sharing hotel rooms with other volunteers, to a 6 week placement with a host family, to 6 weeks in a dorm-like situation in [REDACTED] to the middle of nowhere all by myself. As I started to meet people who would talk to me, I begin to hear stories about the volunteer preceding me who "left" after only a short time. They said she hung around with a "bad crowd".

I was committed to succeeding. I had been exposed to living in a developing country; I was aware of the patriarchal practices that discriminate against women but are the cultural norm. I knew I had to be careful about whom I talked to and who I spent time with. I knew the whole village was watching me and judging me. But when I found myself at home alone, every night, with no electricity and no one to talk to I started to feel so lonely. Men would come by my house late at night and try to talk to me through the walls while I was sleeping. After the music from the rum shops stopped, I would hear women screaming from the abuse of their husbands.

The only other non-Amerindian in the village was the Headmistress, she and I shared a housing structure, much like a duplex. One night, she offered to take me out for a couple of beers at a local shop. I was so relieved to get out of the house, to see what the blaring music I could hear every night was all about. To have some human connection in the form of friendship. She told me about her experiences living in the village as an outsider and gave me advice to just be myself and live my life as I wanted since I would always be judged, no matter what I did.

One day I was washing clothes under my house and the rain came, it was raining so hard you could hardly hear yourself think over the sound of the drops pounding against the zinc roof. I turned around and a man was sitting on the railing behind me. He introduced himself as Froggy and started asking me questions about who I was and what I was doing in the [REDACTED]. He told me about himself and the village. Over the next week, he took me on walks around the mission; in one direction is prairie with tall grasses and clusters of palm trees. In the other you encountered a beautiful black water creek stemming all the way from the Atlantic Ocean. He would tell me about the plants and leaves and how they could be used for different things. He would tell me about the animals. He introduced me to people living on the outskirts that I would otherwise not have met. I thought he was charming. One evening in late September I invited a few of my new friends to listen to music I brought from home and attempt making a pizza. They introduced me to the local Indian brew called Pywari. It didn't take

long before I was very drunk, the Pywari was super strong and I got very sick. Froggy appeared with the leaves of a plant that he told me would help me feel better just by breathing them in. That is the last solid memory I have of that night. I knew that Froggy sent everyone home and had gotten me into bed and I remember him having sex with me but I was voiceless, powerless and not able to grab hold of reality to make him stop. I don't think I even said no or stop, I couldn't, I could barely stay present. The next morning he left early but it became apparent that everyone in the village knew he had spent the night. To save face, I agreed to tell everyone we were dating. It seemed a smart decision given that one of the top three daily questions constantly and consistently asked of me was if I had a boyfriend yet. I thought this might end up eliminating some of the uncomfortable tension women felt around me, end the advances of local men and provide me a little extra safety. But these thoughts only lasted a matter of days before things started to get difficult. Right away Froggy was a jealous person; noticing who I talked to, taking my dog for the day and sending him home with love notes attached to his collar. He was always around and seemed to know where I was and what I had done that day. Two days later, I started to feel sick; I develop a fever and had a significant and constant abdominal pain. Froggy stopped by to check on me but instead forced me to have sex. He told me to "behave". I felt so powerless and I remember being scared of him. I said no, I begged him no, I pleaded but I couldn't hold him off. The next day I travelled to the Peace Corps nurse who sent me to a Doctor; I was infected with three STDs. I was so embarrassed and ashamed and felt so dirty. I never told Peace Corps Froggy had raped me; it wouldn't be until years later that I could even admit that to myself. I felt I was responsible for what happened and that his raping me was something I let him do.

Like many of the village's men, Froggy spent two weeks working in the bush logging or mining and one week home. When he returned home after his first break since we started dating, I was not there. When I got back, I was told that Froggy was spreading rumors about me having sex with someone else in the village who was HIV positive. I couldn't believe he would do this and I informed the village chief of what was happening. The chief punished Froggy with 8 hours of weeding around the health clinic and had to apologize to me. He told me he had a drinking problem and was mad when I wasn't home and he didn't know where I had gone. I felt sorry for him, he painted a picture of this wounded soul who wanted to be better and who felt awful for his mistakes. I told him I didn't want to be involved in a relationship with him anymore but that as his friend I would do what I could to help him face his drinking problem.

A few days later there was a death in the village and grieving ceremonies began. After one of the day-long gatherings Froggy stopped by my house with a friend demanding I cook food. I struggled with this but I also knew that's what the women do for people when they visit your home so I tried to be a good "culturally respectful" volunteer and cooked. After only an hour Froggy's mood switched, instantaneously. He stood up and started yelling at me about being unfaithful and a slut. I calmly reminded him that we were no longer in a relationship and that I

was not spending time with anyone. He picked up a rope I kept by the front door to tie up my dog and stormed out. After a few minutes I heard a noise coming from my back porch and somehow intuitively knew what was happening. I picked up my machete, opened the back door and cut him down; he attempted to hang himself from my back steps. I told him to go home and cool off. His friend stayed to warn me about how dangerous Froggy was. He told me about how he had assaulted the volunteer living there before me. He told me Froggy was bad and to get away from him. A bit later, Froggy's mom and sister frantically banged on my door, telling me Froggy had drunken kerosene oil and was rolling on the floor crying. I had no idea what to do; I ran to the nurse and told her what happened. She and her visitors laughed and laughed. Meanwhile Froggy had followed me and was calling for me at the gate. He told me to come out and talk to him but I was scared and stayed silent. After he finally left I went home. I didn't know what to do. It didn't take long before Froggy was back telling me to let him in. I told him to go home, that we would talk in the morning but he wouldn't listen. As he grew louder and more demanding I picked up my machete and the screaming alarm Peace Corps had issued us. I held them behind my back as he ripped open my bedroom window. I argued in my head about defending myself and at what point and how I would protect myself if it came to that but by then it was too late and he was in. As he advanced toward me I grew more and more scared, his calm and collected voice was terrifying. Luckily the chief was alerted and came to escort Froggy out of my house. The chief slept in a hammock under my house that night but that did not help me get any sleep. All I could think about was how common it was in Guyana for people to light women on fire or the house on fire with the woman in it. The next day, I informed Peace Corps and the Security Advisor about the incident and they had me write up an incident report. They told me Froggy had also assaulted the Peace Corps volunteer living in the village before me and that when he tried to break into her house, she pushed him and he fell and knocked himself out. They told me to be careful and stay away from him. They decided to put window slats across most of my windows to protect me from him. On the way back into the village we picked up a couple of police officers to arrest Froggy but he had long disappeared into the bush.

I did my best to ignore Froggy but he was always watching me. He stopped going to work and would sit a short distance away from wherever I was. When I got up in the morning and went to bathe, he would whistle from behind a tree to let me know where he was. He would wave at me when I would come out of the health center. I couldn't get away from him. He made sure I knew he was always watching me. One day, after a school carnival, I went dancing with a few friends. Later that evening, Froggy showed up holding the screaming alarm Peace Corps had given me. Somehow he had broken into my house again. When I got home, the alarm was hanging from the lock on my door. I was hopeful maybe that meant he was sorry and would leave me alone but I asked a couple of the guys to sleep at my house in case he came back. In my gut I knew it wasn't going to be a good night. As I was lying in my bed doing my best to sleep, I heard a noise under my bed. I thought it was my dog and reached down to pet him but instead felt the definition of Froggy's arm. I started cussing and the guys came in,

grabbed him by his pants, dragged him out from under the bed and threw him out. Again I called Peace Corps who came with Police to arrest Froggy but he was gone, he disappeared into the bush.

I was always honest with Peace Corps staff, I told them I had been out drinking and dancing and they advise I avoid going out at night. They told me to stay home, to stay out of sight and not provoke Froggy. But Froggy continued to stalk me. One time when I was walking to the creek with a group of kids for an afternoon swim, Froggy was sitting up in a tree. He called me names and threatened to kill me as I walked by. He said he had lots of guns and he was going to "come out blazing". I did my best to ignore him and keep my head down.

On Christmas Eve, after spending weeks in my home alone, every night, I called Peace Corps and asked for permission to go the village Christmas dance. I was told by the Security Advisor I could go but not to drink. He said "show them you can have a good time without drinking". I agreed and went. Late into the night Froggy arrived and sent different people to tell me he wanted to talk to me outside. I refused every time. Later I saw Froggy in a dance competition with another man and he kept stopping, grabbing his pants and hobbling to the side for a minute and would then return. Then I caught a glimpse of what he was grabbing, it was a silver pistol. I immediately told my friends who said not to worry, that I was safe. I was so scared. A friend of mine approached Froggy to ask if he had a gun and Froggy threatened to shoot him. I went to the only phone in the village and tried to call Peace Corps for help and guidance but the phone was dead. I discussed my options with a friend and we decided I was the safest around other people so I headed back to the dance hall. As we walked in the door the power was cut and Froggy started yelling about being the Taliban. Other people started yelling that he had a gun. My friends found me, surrounded me and escorted me to a truck. They handed me a knife, telling me that if I had to, to defend myself. Froggy was following us and trying to talk to me, everyone was yelling back and forth. As they put me in the truck to drive me out to one of the farms for the night Froggy said, "It's alright [REDACTED] I'll find you". The next day I called Peace Corps, they picked me up and that was the last time I saw the village. Peace Corps ultimately did not believe me that Froggy had a gun. They blamed me for being out and dancing and drinking. I saw how my choices put me in an environment where Froggy could get to me so I agreed and took responsibility for what happened. The Peace Corps nurse pulled me aside and said she was concerned I had a drinking problem and she was sending me to Washington, D.C. on medi-vac or medical evacuation.

Once in DC, I received excellent care. I was sent to a specialist to help with the STDs, I had to have cryosurgery to remove the soars that had developed internally. I attended counseling with two different therapists, one focusing on the drinking, the other on the trauma. I engaged in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) therapy, to help alleviate the constant fear I felt. I was barely sleeping. I was frightened by any noise. My mind raced with all the ways Froggy would try to kill me and none of them were quick and painless.

Peace Corps support of me while in DC was fantastic. I felt valued and important. I felt like any care I needed was available, all I had to do was ask. And often they asked me if there was anything else I needed.

With time I improved and was desperate to return to service. I loved the program, I loved the opportunity and I worked very hard to get to a place where they were comfortable sending me back, including signing a no-drinking contract. I was given a new host sight and settled into Canal #2 at another health center. While this placement was good, I couldn't stop the intrusive memories. Even with a guard patrolling the premises, I lived in fear every night. Within a month I developed internal bleeding or stress bleeding. Peace Corps put me in contact with the trauma therapist I had worked with in DC and she helped me say the words I couldn't say alone. She helped me say that for my physical and mental health, it was time for me to go home. I was devastated.

Once home, it was as if Peace Corps had disowned me; it was extremely difficult to get supportive services. First, I had to acquire approval, then personally pay for the services and submit invoices for reimbursement which could take months to arrive. It was very expensive and difficult and I gave up and pursued my own support networks. This is the first time I have put written words to the memories I have of my Peace Corps experience and it brings me both great joy and deep, deep shame and guilt; something so beautiful tainted by something so ugly. I loved Peace Corps and still do; I am a huge advocate for anyone interested in enlisting. But I know there are things that Peace Corps can do better. As much as Peace Corps was there for me, they also blamed me and tried to control me as if that would stop Froggy. I did not have any say in the results of those incidents and I was left to navigate my way through seeing Froggy daily. Later, I learned from other villagers later that Froggy held his sister's infant son out the window by his ankle, threatening to drop him if she didn't agree to return to her abusive husband.

6. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me; each time an incident occurred I was asked to write an incident report which they kept on file.
7. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. The two times Peace Corps brought police officers to the village to locate and arrest Froggy he would disappear into the bush.
8. The Peace Corps did take steps to remedy the situation but all of them restricted me and my freedom. They put bars on my windows, they spoke with the chief and they put the responsibility on me to avoid provoking Froggy by doing things that would draw his attention. I stayed in my house every night for weeks trying to distance myself from him. But ultimately I realized nothing I did was going to change his focus on me, nothing deterred him.

9. Peace Corps gave me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me but it was around me taking responsibility for provoking Froggy not about protecting me or preventing shame. Nor did they help me handle seeing him every day.
10. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
11. Once I returned to the United States, it was as if Peace Corps had disowned me; it was extremely difficult to get supportive services. I had to acquire approval for anything and everything first, pay for the services and then submit invoices for reimbursement. There was a lot of paper work that required a lot of time to fill out, track and be approved, inhibiting my ability to afford ongoing support. It became too difficult and I gave up.
12. I wish the Peace Corps had been honest with me about Froggy before I was ever placed in the village. They knew who he was; they knew what he was capable of due to his trouble with the previous volunteer. By sending me into the village without knowledge of who Froggy was put me at a disadvantage, they left me to figure out Froggy on my own--a dangerous person. All of this was probably preventable.

Additionally, after Froggy tried to commit suicide from my porch and broke into my house, I wish they would have recognized that things would only get worse; that there was nothing anyone could do to control him. Especially not me.

13. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask them to increase sexual assault and intimate partner violence training for both volunteers during orientation and host country staff. This training would include discussions about trauma, the impact trauma can have on an individual and survivor centered advocacy. I believe it would be helpful for staff to understand the impact of victim-blaming and recognize no one provokes an aggressor. But through person-focused support we can respond with kindness and preserve dignity. That the response to such situations will impact the survivor for the rest of their life; if we provide supportive environments for women when they come forward we can lessen the trauma they experience.
14. I [REDACTED] declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: February 20, 2011

Signed: /s/ [REDACTED]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, **Redacted** state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

(Only if applicable, include the following: I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.)

1. My name is **Redacted** and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in **Redacted** (country), from 4/1998 (date) until 11/1998 (date).
2. I was 25 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I had worked in international service organizations prior to Peace Corps and I found it rewarding and important. I had great aspirations of following that same career path to help people in less fortunate countries.
4. Before I was placed in **Redacted** (country of service), the Peace Corps did not train us regarding sexual assault safety. (Please describe the type of information and training the Peace Corps provided you regarding sexual assault safety).
5. I did not have any experiences prior to my assault that made me feel fearful for my safety
6. After the assault I went to the Peace Corps nurse and described what happened to me. I was unsure what had happened to me and in a state of shock. She was in no way prepared or trained in rape counseling. She told me that I would need to choose to leave my host country or be Medi Vac-ed to DC. She let me know that if I left, it would be highly unlikely that I would return. There were no investigations or rape kit. (Please describe what, if any, medical or security-related help you received, who provided it, and where you had to go to get it).
7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by the Peace Corps **Redacted** nurse (Please explain what you had to do to report the incident).
8. The Peace Corps responded by sending me back to DC to receive medical treatment. I was not allowed to go back to my village or say goodbye to my co-workers or people. I felt like I had done something wrong by Peace Corps and that I was being punished.

9. The Peace Corps did not take action to document that a crime had been committed against me.
10. The Peace Corps did not provided me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. I was in too much shock to understand what had happened and Peace Corps only assumed that I had done something to bring the crime upon myself. I needed to see a rape counselor immediately or a therapist. I had no voice and was very scarred.
11. The Peace Corps did not support me. I felt they were in a rush to clear themselves of any responsibility rather than just giving me some basic considerations.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me.
13. I was not "allowed" to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps I was sent to counselors and appointments all over Washington DC (which I had never been to and had to find my way around). I had no winter clothes so I had to budget myself with a weekly stipend for clothes and food and transportation. I had to go alone to a hospital and be treated for possible AIDS. I was given medications for this as well. After almost 10 days after the assault, I was finally given rape counseling. I was absolutely terrified and very alone. The rape counselor suggested a therapist for me to see. But he was never covered by the workman's comp that I and he applied for. I kept getting letters that it would just take some time but my therapy was never covered. I called numerous times before I gave up.
15. I wish the Peace Corps had given me the appropriate support immediately after the assault (instead of traumatizing me more) and then let me complete my service so that I could continue my career and not be forever scarred by this nightmarish experience. I wish I had the opportunity to feel that regardless of the horrible experience I had, at least I would feel good that I completed my service. (Please describe any other steps you wish the Peace Corps had taken).
16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask to be given the same rights as someone who completed 2 full years of service since I sacrificed my whole life. I never fully recovered from this traumatic experience and am still in therapy (unpaid by Peace Corps since I found it completely impossible and humiliating to get through to anyone at Workman's Comp).

I, Redacted declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 3/17/11

Signed: Redacted

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, (anonymous), state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I would like to remain anonymous. My name may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [Redacted] from July 1992 until September 1994.
2. I was 27 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I enjoy travel, learning about other cultures, and studying foreign languages.
4. Before I was placed in [Redacted], we had some training on harassment. We watched a brief video of former volunteers describing everything from catcalls on the street to dealing with unruly students. I was in training more than 18 yrs ago, but I do not recall any training specifically about sexual assault. When we arrived in country, we had a brief discussion on what constitutes sexual harassment, but again, I do not recall anything specifically about assault.
5. Approximately 1 year after I arrived in [Redacted], the country began preparing for its first multiparty election. Almost immediately I could feel the atmosphere change in my town. There were rumors that the US was supporting the opposition. In my town, 3 Africans who were known friends of PC volunteers were assaulted. I was walking home along one evening when someone approached me with a knife and took my purse. Luckily I had my house keys in my pocket, but another volunteer's key's had been in my purse. The next day, when I was out walking, a car drove by and someone yelled, "I see you changed your locks." Since it was obvious they had tried to break into my house, I called the PC office in the capital. I explained what had happened and asked for money to be wired to me so that I could have bars installed on my windows. The APCD for my program responded something to the effect of, "I can see why that would be disturbing, but you caught us at a really bad time. We're very busy now." The next evening I was sitting on my neighbors' porch. The same car drove by and told me it was time to go home. It felt creepy but I pushed it out of my mind. That night, I was sleeping face down. I woke up when I felt someone kneeling on my back holding a knife to my neck. The person said he was going to rape me or kill me. By some miracle I managed to push him off and run out the door. I banged at the neighbors' house but no one answered. I ran down the hill to the home of an American missionary family.
6. After the assault(s), the missionary family called my country director, who told me to fly to [Redacted] the next day. I stayed with them for the rest of the night but could not sleep.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by giving a written description of the incident once I arrived in the capital.
8. The Peace Corps responded by asking whether I wanted to talk to a counselor or be posted in another city. Feeling like I could handle things, I refused both. My APCD accompanied me back to my post and told my landlord (who was related to the president) that I would be looking for new accommodations. I then rented a room at a church where I felt safer.
9. The Peace Corps took some action to document that a crime had been committed against me. My memory is not clear on this, but I believe the incident was reported to the local police. A few weeks or months later, the US Ambassador to [Redacted] at that time wrote to the local police to ask what the results were of their investigation. The police called me to their office to tell me they made some inquiries but found nothing. My personal belief is that everyone knew who did it (it was a small town) but was afraid to take any action.
10. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker(s). I believe that more pressure could have been put on the local police to conduct a real investigation.
11. The Peace Corps did not take any other significant steps that I recall. I do remember that during my close of service, the country director praised me for being a "low maintenance volunteer", despite one "bump in the road."
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. I do not recall the PC telling me what to tell others. I did hear, however, that my story was told during the orientation of the next group of volunteers.
13. I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps offered no assistance related to my incident.
15. I wish the Peace Corps had taken the issue of housing more seriously. Many volunteers (myself included), arrive in their towns on their own and have to look for their own housing. We were told it would be a good cultural experience. I arrived in my town during school vacation, when other local teachers, Peace Corps volunteers, or landlords were on vacation. I stayed in the home of a volunteer but had to leave as quickly as possible since she was arriving with her family. I took the first housing that I could find. It was far away from the school where I worked and turned out to be unsafe. The Country Director or Associate Program Director (not just another volunteer) should accompany each volunteer to his/her house, speak with the landlord, introduce the volunteer to his/her local work counterpart, and to the local authorities. This will give the message that the volunteer is well supported.

16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask why they continue to view security issues as separate, isolated incidents rather than as something indicative of structural or management problems with the peace corps..

Date: February 20, 2011

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. My name is [REDACTED], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED] from October 1991 through December 1993.
2. I was twenty-two years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I craved adventure and wanted to learn a foreign language; the Peace Corps represented an opportunity to achieve those personal goals while simultaneously benefiting others. In addition, I wanted to learn more about the world beyond my own country and, most specifically, I believed in the idealism and principles of community service Peace Corps embodies.
4. Before I was placed in [REDACTED], I have no recollection of the Peace Corps providing any information or training regarding sexual assault safety. When notified of my assignment, I received a large mailing that included a Peace Corps Invitation Booklet. I saved all enclosures and quote here the only reference to safety in that document, on page 27, section 14, under the heading Your Questions and Answers. Question 8 is "Will I be safe?" The answer is as follows: "The safety of every Volunteer is paramount to the Peace Corps. Both Peace Corps and host country officials work together to ensure that Volunteers are assigned only to secure sites. In each country, Peace Corps has an emergency evacuation plan to be activated in cases of natural disasters or similar threats to Volunteers' health and well-being. Routine daily security is further ensured through cultural sensitivity and prudent conduct on the part of the Volunteer. A combination of common sense and adherence to a host country's customs and mores will increase a Volunteer's safety as well as credibility in the community."

That same initial mailing/information packet included The United States Peace Corps Handbook. There is only one reference to sexual assault safety in the 74-page handbook. In the section titled Guidelines for Volunteers, under the sub-heading Legal Concerns (MS 221), I quote from page 37: "In cases where a Volunteer has been a victim of an actual/attempted sexual assault, the Volunteer will be advised as to all available options, including prosecution, and Peace Corps may retain a local attorney to counsel the Volunteer if the Volunteer makes a firm commitment to pursue prosecution." Other vague references to personal safety/conduct in the same Peace Corps Handbook include the following precautionary notes on page 33, in the description under the heading Guidelines for Volunteers: "Irresponsible behavior can have an undesirable impact upon your emotional well-being and reputation. It also reflects negatively upon the

reputation of fellow Volunteers, Peace Corps and the United States.... You will not be on exhibit overseas, but you will be under scrutiny. This means you must not only avoid certain activities, but must be sure that actions do not appear to be something other than what you wish to convey." Under the sub-heading Personal Appearance (MS 204) on page 34, is this: "Personal appearance can credit or discredit you and Peace Corps.... Troublesome items for female Volunteers may be short skirts, sleeveless or backless dresses, or shorts or slacks, depending on local customs."

During our in-country training, prior to being sworn in as Volunteers, we got a single safety lecture one afternoon. A short summary of the content of the lecture appears in my memoir of my Peace Corps service, *When I Was Elena*, on page 280. As I recollect, the two Medical Officers (both nurses) as well as the Assistant Country Director were in attendance. I remember being told by the Assistant Country Director that if any of us were raped, we should expect that prosecution of the crime would be futile and understand that the Peace Corps would not involve itself in any way in such efforts. I remember this, specifically, because it infuriated me so. I soon came to believe they were right, however; prosecution of anything in Guatemala at that time did seem entirely futile.

As a Volunteer, the precautions I took to prevent problems included acquiring a guard dog; wearing modest clothing appropriate to the communities in which I lived; tying my long, curly red hair into a perpetual bun in an effort to reduce its allure; sleeping with a knife under my pillow and a lead pipe beneath my bed; adding bolts and combination locks to all exterior doors, and (in one home) having a fellow Volunteer build a rebar barricade system I could install on the inside of my bedroom door at night; observing local curfews and refraining from travel at night whenever possible; carrying a portable horn/alarm with me when I left the house; and among other things, most vitally, building bonded, intimate relationships with the women in my communities, who took it upon themselves to watch over me. Of note, in two of the three towns in which I resided during my service, there was another, male, Volunteer assigned simultaneously; my security did not seem to be correlated to his presence. In fact, I felt (and was in fact) most secure in the town where I lived alone.

5. It became apparent almost immediately, though most specifically after training ended and I was no longer regularly in the company of large groups of fellow Volunteers, that my security would be regularly threatened. I accepted this as normal. Stanley Meisler, in his book *When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and its First Fifty Years*, describes [REDACTED] in the early 90s as "a dark and difficult country...cruelly torn by civil war, unstable government, violence against leftists, and repression of [REDACTED]. Volunteers worked in enervating tension. The work for women Volunteers...was even more tense because of the contemptuous machismo of [REDACTED] men." In the course of my service, I was mugged, robbed numerous times, victimized during multiple home invasions (including invasions while I was in the house), jumped on a public street and compelled to fight my way free, forced off public buses at

gunpoint, confronted by the military, stalked, and in many other ways harassed (typically sexually). That I escaped significant injury and/or rape is primarily due, in my opinion, to luck and the protection offered me by my German shepherd dog, [REDACTED], whom I acquired when I was a trainee; she saved my life on more than one occasion.

Once, while on a visit to the capital, a male Volunteer was discounting the females' stories of harassment. To make clear to him the pervasiveness of the problem, I agreed to walk to a store seven blocks away and count the number of men who attempted to violate me either physically, by grabbing my body (typically crotch or breasts), or verbally (calling out sexual slurs at me). In that single round-trip stroll, fourteen different men accosted me. (This situation is documented in greater detail in my book on page 182; other encounters of assaults, threats and sexual harassment are documented throughout.)

6. In the cases where I needed and/or sought help, I sought it, and received it from, local community members or other Volunteers. Had I been raped or otherwise significantly physically injured I would have reported it to the Peace Corps office, but short of that, it didn't occur to me to report such frequent and persistent incidents; I accepted them as part and parcel of my service. That said, the following egregious situation is also worth noting for the way in which it eroded my trust in the Peace Corps staff:

After my local DIGESA (department of agriculture) supervisor attempted to break into my house one night about six months into my service, threatening to rape me, I wound up being reassigned (after a brief stint in a mountain village) to a new permanent site, noted in a tourist's guidebook as being "the gangland capital of [REDACTED]." It was during my tenure there that the threats to my security accelerated significantly. A few months after that move, in November of 1992, I met a US-AID employee during a short trip to [REDACTED]. We introduced ourselves; he was surprised to hear where I was living, and asked pointed questions about the [REDACTED] counterparts with whom I'd been assigned to work in my new locale. It has now been nearly twenty years since our conversation, but I recollect the gist of it as follows: After a short time, he told me he had something to confide, claiming he couldn't live with himself if something happened to me and he hadn't warned me. He said he believed I was in danger. He then explained that my [REDACTED] counterpart (essentially, my local boss) -- the man with whom I was required, as part of my assigned Peace Corps duties, to accompany on weekly hikes to remote mountain villages -- had within the past year been deported from the United States after being accused of rape while attending a US-AID-sponsored training. The US-AID employee claimed he had gone to the Peace Corps office in [REDACTED] prior to my reassignment and shared this information with the staff in order to prevent them from assigning any female Volunteers to work with that man in the future. He quizzed me: Was I certain the Peace Corps staff hadn't told me about this or warned me in any way? I told him I'd never been informed, but fortunately, of my own initiative, had refused to work directly with the man in question as I did not like him; he made

me uncomfortable and I opted to seek association with other, female, members of his team instead. I remember that the US-AID employee was, if not convinced, at least gravely concerned that Peace Corps, may have deliberately kept me in the dark despite the obvious dangers, in order to satisfy the local government's desire to keep Peace Corps Volunteers in that region.

I will say that as the subsequent threats against me escalated to stalking and home invasion, culminating in an attack a year later that I survived with tremendous luck and without injury, I did not report it directly to the Peace Corps office as was my responsibility to do. I am accountable for that decision and take responsibility for its consequences. It should be noted, however, that my choices were in large part based on my lack of trust of Peace Corps staff fueled by the betrayal I felt in light of the US-AID worker's disclosure. At that time, I believed that the Peace Corps was as liable for putting me in danger as was the unknown assailant; they had, after all, assigned me to work with a reputed rapist, and I believed there was a good chance he was my attacker. Furthermore, I did not want to be removed from my site and my work with only three months remaining in my tour, and my previous experience (of being reassigned after an attempted assault) illustrated that this was the only option Peace Corps would offer.

Instead, I sent a telegram to my fiancé, a Peace Corps Volunteer living on the opposite side of the country, informing him I was in danger and needed immediate help. He traversed the country by bus in less than twenty-four hours, and we decided together that I'd be most safe from future violence if he moved in with me. We went together to the Peace Corps office in [REDACTED]; he informed them of what was going on, and of his decision to leave his site to be with me. He asked for permission to finish out the one month left in his tour of service in my company, as his work was completed and he believed he could not leave me alone without grave repercussions. He was ordered instead to leave me at my site alone and return to his own. His refusal to do so resulted in a tense and protracted exchange in which the following was finally agreed to between him and his Associate Peace Corps Director (subsequently approved by the Country Director): He was offered the opportunity to end his service one month early, instead of being "early terminated" for insubordination, but Peace Corps would issue no references on his behalf to future employers or otherwise. (I assume the aggrieved response of the Peace Corps staff was fueled in large part by our breach of protocol; Volunteers are not to leave their sites without permission, and he had done so due to my emergency. We broke the rules, and I must admit that had I been in their position, I'd have found that aggravating too.) Unfortunately, despite being informed by my fiancé of the threats against me and the attack from which I'd escaped, no one on the Peace Corps staff ever spoke to me about it or inquired as to my safety, thus fueling our belief that we had done the right thing by taking matters into our own hands. I served out the last three months of my service with my fiancé as housemate. All threats immediately ceased, and in his company I never had another security concern.

I believe that in my Close-of-Service (COS) report (written immediately preceding my departure from the country) I disclosed the information transmitted to me by the US-AID employee while keeping his identity confidential; I know that, at the very least, I adamantly insisted that it would be inappropriate and unsafe to place another female Volunteer in that location. Many years later, back in the States, I met a woman who'd arrived in [REDACTED] as a Peace Corps Volunteer just as I was leaving. She informed me she'd been assigned to my site after I left; she had, in fact, lived in my house. I was startled to hear that, saying I'd been clear with Peace Corps staff that I did not recommend such a thing. She said that they'd said nothing to her of their own initiative, but at one point she found and read my COS report and inquired among the staff as to why she'd been placed there despite my warnings. She indicated to me, gently, that they told her they believed I'd become mentally unstable and was suffering from delusions. (I went through my belongings; I do not, unfortunately, have a copy of the COS report I wrote. I do, however, have glowing personal recommendations written at my tour's end from the Country Director and my immediate supervisor, an Associate Country Director.) Fortunately, the woman who took my place reported to me that she did not suffer similar security problems during her tenure.

7. With one exception, involving a robbery of international funds for a Peace Corps Partnership Program grant for which I needed a police report to seek reimbursement, neither the Peace Corps nor I took any action to document that any crimes had been committed against me.
8. I completed my assignment with the Peace Corps in December of 1993.
9. Upon my return to the United States, I had very little direct contact with the Peace Corps as an organization. I have, however, spoken frequently to high school groups as part of the Third Goal and World Wise Schools program, and have taught community education classes at local community colleges on the Peace Corps – including the benefits to joining, how to streamline the application process, what to expect, etc. In all cases I speak as a fervent advocate of Peace Corps service, and while truthful about some of the hardships I experienced I tend to focus on the benefits and my firm belief that it is one of the most positive experiences of my life. The friendships I made during my service, with other Volunteers, are among my most treasured; I still maintain regular contact with dozens of them. My memoir about my time in [REDACTED] was published in 2006 to some acclaim, and resulted in a multi-city book tour across the United States, offering me yet another platform to discuss Peace Corps service. To that end, the following is worth noting:

Shortly before my book was published, I contacted the Peace Corps office in Washington D.C. as well as the west-coast regional office nearest me, in Seattle, to alert them to the book's release. I sent early galley copies to Peace Corps Information Offices at both locations, as I felt it was appropriate to let them know about it; I invited them to contact me with any questions or concerns. I never heard from Washington, but did get a call from a woman in the recruiting office in

Seattle who had been given my contact information but not the book. This woman, who had not been a Volunteer herself, told me they were actively seeking Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to travel and speak at recruiting events on behalf of the Peace Corps and wanted to know if I were willing to do so. I said I'd love to; that I was a staunch advocate of the Peace Corps and community service in general, but I wondered if she had read my book. She said no, that she didn't need to. I told her she did, explaining that my book told the full truth of my experience, highlighting the things I loved, the way it stimulated my growth, and how I would do it all over again. But I warned her that I was equally truthful about the difficulties and dangers I encountered, stories I hadn't ever heard told before. Though it was five years ago now that I spoke with her, I will never forget the precise content of the rest of our interaction. "Peace Corps values the truth," she said. "So why would we have a problem with you telling it?" She was eager to immediately enlist my recruiting assistance, but I insisted she read the book before we spoke further. I overnighted her a copy; she agreed to read it over the weekend and call me on Monday, which she did.

She started out by raving about the writing, the story, and said she'd pre-ordered multiple copies for her family and friends. "I love this book," she said, "because you talk about all the things we always imagined happen out there, but no one ever speaks about. I'll be at your book reading when you come to [REDACTED]," she continued, softly, "but you must know that from now on the Peace Corps can't officially have anything to do with you." I told her I was afraid that might be the case, and we parted kindly. She did not make it to the book reading. There were plenty of Returned Volunteers on hand, but no one from the [REDACTED] office. The same was true of the reading in Washington, D.C.

Despite this, I continue to speak highly of my Peace Corps association and the organization in general, and have recruited numerous Volunteers to its service.

10. In closing, I reiterate my belief that the Peace Corps is a tremendous organization; troves of people (Americans and foreign nationals alike) benefit greatly from it, though some of us have suffered hardships in its service. I stand by the conclusion I drew about my service, which appears on pages 300-301 in my book: [REDACTED] gave to me more than she took, and I would live it all over again, no second thoughts. If I got to repeat my life, rearrange, subtract, add in any experience I wanted, no question I'd keep the [REDACTED] years. Without a single change that time would be resurrected in the sequel, just the way it was. [REDACTED] made me *me*, and if she hurt me, the cicatrix is too much a part of who I am to ever relieve myself of it. It is what makes me most proud. It is my battle wound, my numbered tattoo, my Purple Heart that says I *thrived*."

Safety is guaranteed to no one, anywhere: not in the United States, and not abroad. Beyond that, people make mistakes, even Peace Corps officials; they react with aggravation to a breach of protocol instead of with compassion for the trauma that forced a 24-year-old to take matters into her own hands; they fail to heed well-intentioned advice from well-placed sources such as the US-AID

worker, burying the information in a pile of paperwork or simply failing, on a busy day, to pass the information on to the staffer who could implement it. Systems as big as the Peace Corps suffer small breaches and breakdowns all the time. That is not a scandal, nor is it irremediable, as long as it is acknowledged and addressed.

If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, it would be for greater transparency and more honorable accountability. Had the potential risks I might have faced been disclosed to me accurately and in a timely manner, *I still would have joined*. Difference is, I wouldn't have blamed the organization and its staff for hiding the truth from me when problems arose, and, instead, we would likely have been better able to work together to address them.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: March 10, 2011

Signed: [REDACTED]

**PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT
FEBRUARY 18, 2011**

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. Please note, I have written this out based largely on my Peace Corps medical records and journals which I kept at the time of the event as I did not want to rely on my memory alone.

BACKGROUND

I graduated from [REDACTED] in 1990 with a major in economics and a minor in African history with the intention of pursuing a career as a development economist focused on sub-saharan Africa. After graduation, I took a job as a research assistant in the developing economies division of the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had applied to the Peace Corps during my senior year at [REDACTED] and was waiting to be accepted. My dream was to be a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa and my plan was to quit my job at the [REDACTED] as soon as I was accepted – which is what I did.

I was assigned to training in [REDACTED] and then went to [REDACTED] for in country training from 6/20/91-9/13/91. Following in country training I was assigned to a large village in the southern tip of the country near the border of [REDACTED]. I left [REDACTED] shortly after my rape which occurred on January 27, 1991. I was 23 years old. My rape was one of at least three which occurred during my stay in [REDACTED]. Despite the fact that one of these rapes occurred on site during in country training, we received no information or training of any kind regarding sexual assault safety.

RAPE

My sister and mother came to visit me in [REDACTED] in December 1991. After my mother left, my sister stayed with me through Christmas and planned to leave after New Years. We decided to travel for the holidays and received permission to do so from the head office. We went to [REDACTED] which is a city in [REDACTED]. We arrived in [REDACTED] at 6am on December 24th. We stayed at the home of another volunteer (A) who left on Thursday December 26th to go to [REDACTED] for the New Year.

My attacker, whom I will call P, was an acquaintance of A. We had met him previously when in the market with A and had had tea with him and his friends. My sister and I had spoken with P and his friends about buying jewelry. This was the extent of our acquaintance.

[NOTE: THIS IS TAKEN VERBATIM FROM THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT I WROTE FOR PC IN DC FOLLOWING THE RAPE] Friday December 27 1991, I was sleeping when P (my attacker) knocked on A's concession door at approximately 9am. A had left the day before so my sister and I were staying at A's house alone. My sister was awake so she answered the door. I heard their voices and thought it might be P but I was too tired to get up and had no interest in seeing him. They were outside the door of the house talking for a few minutes but I couldn't hear what was said. My sister came in and told me P was waiting outside. She told me he wanted to see me. I told her to tell him I was sleeping and that we would come by the store later. She went outside and I assume she told him what I said. She came back and told me that he insisted on seeing me now.

I got up reluctantly and wrapped the large thick grey wool blanket I was sleeping with around me. I had been sleeping in long white shorts and a grey sleeveless tee shirt. The blanket was large and covered my legs and shoulders.

I went outside and sat in the chair next to P. He was wearing a long beige coat with a belt. His collar was up. He had his head wrapped in the typical [REDACTED] desert headdress. After I lay down outside, my sister went inside the house. For the next few minutes we talked about the [REDACTED] beauty pageant, his fiancé, his American friends, my husband (I had taken up the habit of telling Nigerian men I was married and wore a wedding band) and my village. He asked where my sister was and I told him she was inside. During our conversation, he grabbed my hand. I pulled it back – feeling uncomfortable and pulled my blanket tighter around me. He touched my shoulder with his right hand and told me how nice I was. He told me he and his friends had waited outside A's house until midnight the night before. My sister and I had gotten a ride back to A's from friends at about 12:30 am. I was feeling increasingly uncomfortable so I told him I had things to do but that I would come by his store later. He insisted that he wanted to stay and talk.

At some point during our conversation, P's friend knocked on the concession door. I answered the door. He came inside and said he wanted to see my sister. I called her and she came out to speak to him. P's friend had given her 2 necklaces the day before which she was considering purchasing. She had decided to buy them for 3500 [REDACTED]. We didn't have any change in the house so he suggested that my sister go back to the store with him to get change. As they were leaving, I said to my sister "Come back soon, I don't want to be alone with P for long."

P and I talked about exchanging addresses. I went inside to get a paper and pen and he came in after me. I went to the table to get paper (the table is immediately on your left hand side as you walk in the house). He grabbed my left hand and said in French "Come let's go inside and began pulling me toward to bedroom." I said no and shook my head pulling away. He grabbed me and kissed me. I pushed him away and started toward the door. He grabbed my arm and dragged me over to the bench in the living room. I struggled, said no and was trying to think of what to do to get rid of him. He pushed me down onto the bench. I was struggling to get him off me by pushing against his chest but he was very forceful and much stronger than me. I tried harder and harder to push him off and started kicking. But he used his knees and right hand to hold me down. I remember thinking "Oh my God he is going to rape me." I kept saying no and kept trying to push him off. He told me to take off my shorts. I kept struggling and screamed no. He ripped my shorts and underwear on one side and forced his penis through. He kept thrusting and trying to penetrate – but I had a tampon in and was a virgin so he couldn't penetrate. He got frustrated and tried harder and harder. It really hurt. Finally, he ejaculated, I could feel his semen on the inside of my thighs. He got up immediately then and went to the bathroom. I sat up and sat there on the bench stunned. He came back. I stood up. He said "I will be back later with my friends." He left.

I immediately started packing. I was scared he would come back so I wanted to leave as soon as my sister came back. I didn't have a watch so I didn't know how long she had been gone. We had told our friends to pick us up for lunch at 1pm so I wanted to be ready by then.

When my sister came back, I told her I had been raped. She agreed that we should leave that afternoon on the bus and get to the Peace Corps office as soon as possible. Around 12:45, P and his friends knocked on the concession door. I was shaking and terrified, frozen. My sister was yelling at them to leave when our friends showed up – P and his friends immediately left. We did not tell our friend what had happened, but he knew something was wrong-- he took us to his house. I called Dr. P (American in

country doctor) and told him what happened. He was very supportive and said he would meet us at the PC clinic the next morning. We stayed at our friend's house until he brought us to the bus at 7pm that evening.

[THE FOLLOWING IS VERBATUM FROM THE OFFICIAL CABLE SENT FROM DR. P TO DC:
S: YESTERDAY MORNING, WHILE STAYING AT THE HOME OF ANOTHER PCV, [NAME], WHO WAS HIMSELF IN NIAMEY AT AN IST MEETING, TWO LOCAL WADAABE MEN CAME INTO THE HOUSE OSTENSIBLY SELLING JEWELRY. THEY WERE KNOWN TO THE PCV WHO LIVED THERE. ONE OF THE TWO MEN TOOK THE VISITING PCV'S SISTER BACK TO A JEWELRY SHOP WHERE HE SHOWED HER SOME JEWELRY AND SOLD IT TO HER. WHILE HE DID THAT, THE OTHER ONE RAPED THE VISITING PCV. THIS WAS DONE IN THE MORNING. THE PCV WAS PROPERLY DRESSED IN THE HOUSE. THERE WAS NO "REQUEST" ON HER PART. (SHE WAS A VIRGIN AS WELL). SHE IS UNSURE IF THERE WAS PENETRATION. THE RAPIST DID EJACULATE BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS WAS OUTSIDE. SHE DID RECOGNIZE SOME PAIN DURING THE EVENT BUT IT IS UNCLEAR BEAUSE OF COURSE OF THE EMOTIONAL LEVEL WAS WELL.

HE THEN LEFT. THE PCV AND HER SISTER ARRANGED TO COME TO [REDACTED] AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CALLED ME AT HOME THIS MORNING, SATURDAY 12/28/91 AS SOON AS THEY GOT TO TOWN ON THE BUS. I MET THEM AT THE PEACE CORPS OFFICE WITHIN A FEW MINUTES. [MEDICAL NOTES FOLLOW]]

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

I met Dr. P at his office soon after my sister and I arrived in [REDACTED]. I had told Dr. P what had happened on the phone. Dr. P and Nurse E were very compassionate and supportive. They performed a pelvic exam and, with my permission, treated me prophylactically for sexually-transmitted diseases. Dr. P invited my sister and I to stay with him and his wife. During those few days I stayed with him, I saw a few of my PCV friends. I have no recall of a visit or even a telephone discussion with another other Peace Corps staff including the in country director. I do not recall anyone speaking to me about whether or not I wanted to prosecute and what I might need to do to keep that as a feasible option. I do not recall making a formal statement at that time or being given the option of making a formal statement. Dr. P arranged for medical evacuation to Washington, D.C. within a few days. I was put on an international flight to D.C. via Paris alone, which was standard procedure.

When I arrived in D.C., I chose to stay with college friends rather than in a hotel. I was given the address of the PC office in D.C. where I went immediately after I arrived. At the PC office I was seen by M, a PC nurse who managed my "case," e.g. discussed my situation, made medical and counseling referrals. In terms of my emotional response at the time, I was experiencing proto-typical posttraumatic stress symptoms. According to my PC medical records, I reported "difficulty sleeping, nightmares, reduced appetite, lethargy, sadness, fearfulness, self blame, and hyper-vigilance." I was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder. According to my journal, I was also experiencing flashbacks of the assault. I was very worried about HIV because A told me he knew P had been treated repeatedly for STDs and was concerned he was HIV positive.

Although the nurse who handled my case was very compassionate, my overall experience with the PC in DC was negative. In fact, I would say dealing with the PC in DC almost worse than the rape itself. No one I dealt with had any experience in working with recently assaulted women. My experience was that they were more concerned about keeping my experience quiet than figuring out the best way to help me. In terms of specific examples:

In terms of medical treatment, I was sent to a male gynecologist for an exam. I was not asked if I was okay with a male (I would have said no, I had never before or since seen a male gynecologist). He was completely insensitive to my experience. Specifically, I recall him repeatedly asking detailed questions about my (at that time non-existent) sexual history. I recall finding the pelvic exam incredibly painful (probably because I was anxious) and him telling me to stop being hysterical and to just calm down. Overall, I remember my visit to him being a horrible and retraumatizing experience. I do not recall being given any information about sexually-transmitted diseases, potential symptoms to watch for or HIV testing. In fact, no one at PC mentioned HIV testing at all as far as I can recall. I went for HIV testing on my own after I returned home to New Jersey.

In terms of psychological treatment, I was referred to a counselor who I was told I had to see if I wanted to return to [REDACTED] (which I thought I did at the time). I didn't like her or trust her but I was not given the opportunity to see anyone else. She did numerous things that made me uncomfortable. She hugged me at the beginning and end of each session and never asked me if that was okay. She repeatedly told me I was not disclosing enough. She told me that if I didn't participate in therapy, if I didn't tell her more detail about what had happened, she would not permit me to reinstate. Looking back, now as licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in trauma treatment, its clear she violated the basic principles of trauma treatment – from inappropriate physical affection to bullying the client into telling their story before they are ready.

I was also sent to speak with the Inspector General. This experience was a particular low that stands out in my mind. I went to her having been told that she was trying to learn more about the negative experiences of female PC volunteers in-country with the aim of trying to improve our situation. However, it was clear from the beginning of the meeting that her interest was in discrediting my story. When she asked why I was there, I told her I had been raped in [REDACTED] and was sent to talk to her. I can still clearly remember what she then said to me "I am so sick of you girls going over there, drinking, dancing a flirting and then if a guy comes on to you you say you have been raped when you have lead them on." I was stunned – that she would say this and that she clearly knew nothing and wanted to know nothing about my particular case. She then told me she wanted me to write a "confidential" report for internal purposes. By this time, I was together enough to know her behavior and this request was completely wrong. My father helped me find an outside attorney and all subsequent dealings with the IG went through her.

While in D.C., I met several other women who had been medically evacuated for sexual assault. We requested that the PC form a support group since there were a number of us. PC refused. We requested they give us a room to meet in. They refused. Some of us then started meeting informally where we were staying.

When I decided I wanted to prosecute – encouraged by 2 female PCV's I had met who had been raped and had prosecuted, my statement was given to the police in Niger who picked up P and questioned him. He was released after questioning. After this, I spoke with the American in-country PC director about my case. I said I wanted to prosecute and he said "It's your word against his. He said you wanted to have sex and we believe him." It was at that point that I decided I needed to give up on the PC and return home.

HOME

I returned to my parents' home in New Jersey with a booklet from the PC of information for returned volunteers and nothing else. No efforts were made to refer me to a qualified therapist in New Jersey or to medical care. I recall feeling completely hopeless about myself and my future. My professional dreams to do development work in Africa were shattered. I was neither working or in school for the first time in my life. I was someone who had always had clear goals and plans for the future - had no idea what I was going to do next. I clearly needed help. My journal entries from this time are filled with references to suicide. I clearly needed help but had never been in any kind of therapy and did not know even how to go about finding a therapist.

Not long after my return home, a close family friend I had known since childhood asked me to visit her. She asked me to come alone as she wanted to speak with me privately. She told me she had been raped by her boyfriend when she was a teenager. She cried while she told me and said I was only the third person she had told. She told me that she didn't want me to end up like her and begged me to get help. She then got me the name of a psychologist and made me promise I would go see her. I called Dr. L the next day.

After my experience with the counselor in D.C., I was dreading going to Dr. L. I can still recall the feeling of relief I had when I entered her office. Her demeanor was quiet but warm. She let me talk about my experiences - the rape, the PC, being home - at my own pace. I started seeing her twice a week. The PC had made no effort to educate me in the process of obtaining workers compensation to cover my therapy. However, Dr. L patiently went through all the materials with me and helped me fill out all the forms.

Dr. L's letter to the PC dated April 4 1992 reads:

_____ is in individual psychotherapy with me. She comes to sessions twice per week and I have seen her six times. She is clearly suffering from the traumatic consequences of her rape. Focus of the sessions has been on exploring ways of helping her deal with her depression, her feelings of worthlessness, her continuous thinking about her rape, her social withdrawal, her guilt, her lack of trust in her herself and on those around her, and her helplessness to go on with her life.

_____ work related paralysis is evident as she can not muster her internal, not her external resources to explore work opportunities. This aspect of her life will be addressed through specific career counseling techniques and by the use of vocational tests. ..."

Over the next months, my therapy with Dr. L focused on helping me come to terms with my rape, alleviating my symptoms, and figuring out what I was going to do professionally. She also encouraged me to participate in a counseling group for rape survivors. Participating in this group helped reduce my shame and self-blame through talking with women who had similar experiences.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

I was asked to respond to the statements "I wish the Peace Corps had _____." Most fundamentally, I wish the Peace Corps had been on my side following the rape. The compassion of Dr. P and Nurse E aside, I found dealing with the PC a constant battle in which I was treated as the criminal rather than supported as a victim. At the most fundamental level, I was disempowered by not being given basic choices about basic medical and psychological care. I was discouraged from prosecuting. I was accused by an individual in the IG office - the very office that is supposed to oversee and protect

volunteers – of causing the rape. Any efforts I made, along with other volunteers, to obtain support, were thwarted at every level - from not giving me and the other assaulted RPCV's a room to meet to my in-country Director actively discouraging prosecution of my attacker.

I was also asked to respond to the statement "If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask _____." I cannot think of one thing I would ask. My experience with the Peace Corps was a second assault even worse than the first because it was perpetrated by an institution I thought I knew and trusted. The Peace Corps' behavior towards myself and other volunteers who have been victimized is nothing short of shameful. By blaming victims, discrediting our experiences, and failing to provide adequate counseling they are no less responsible for our suffering than the perpetrators themselves. What shocked me most when hearing the stories of [REDACTED] and others was the similarity in our experiences. For almost 20 years, I thought my experience with the Peace Corps in D.C. was uniquely horrible and invalidating. But its clear that in 20 years, the Peace Corps has learned nothing about how to protect and help assault survivors. [REDACTED] faced the same denial and blame I faced 20 years ago.

The culture of the Peace Corps needs to be transformed from one that blames victims to one that supports survivors. In order to accomplish this, the Peace Corps should take the recommendations made by Casey Frazee and First Response Action.

http://firstresponseaction.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=67

Peace Corps in-country personnel need training on how to best respond to sexual assault survivors. My experience with my in-country doctor was positive, but that was luck as many volunteers have not had the same experience. In-country doctors need to be trained in performing post-rape exam in a way that evidence collected can be used in court. Recently assaulted volunteers need to be given clear information and access to prophylactic treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. They should also be given information on the procedures for prosecuting in their country of service.

In D.C., the Peace Corps should also hire an advocate for assault victims who can support them from the time they report the assault through medical examinations, obtaining counseling, prosecuting perpetrators and reinstating or returning home. RPCV's should be empowered to make decisions about their treatment from the moment they arrive in D.C. – including being given choices about medical and psychological care.

In D.C. and after release from service, any Peace Corps volunteer who reports an assault should be offered adequate counseling with a therapist who is trained and experienced in treating trauma survivors

<http://www.istss.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ISTSSTreatmentGuidelines/PTSDTreatmentGuidelines/default.htm>). The workers compensation deadlines for obtaining treatment should be eliminated as we know from empirical data that many rape victims do not seek treatment for months or years after the rape. This does not mean they do not need treatment.

Finally, the Peace Corps should facilitate, rather than discourage, interaction among volunteers who have experienced assault.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: February 18, 2011

Signed: [REDACTED]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. Although I have done my best to recall details accurately, more than twenty years has passed since this incident, and some details have been lost in the fog of trauma that I experienced at the time.

1. My name is [REDACTED] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED] from February through December 1990.
2. I was 22 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because, at a time when so many of my classmates were heading to Wall Street, I wanted to take a different path and make a difference in people's lives. I wanted to broaden my horizons, learn another language, and fully experience life outside the U.S.
4. Before I was placed in [REDACTED], the Peace Corps provided a brief orientation that included only very basic information about personal safety. Neither the orientation nor the three-month in-country training included any discussion or instruction on sexual assault. While the training laudably focused on cultural sensitivity, street harassment and sexual abuse of women were presented as cultural givens, and volunteers were not provided with many useful strategies for dealing with these pervasive and dangerous problems.
- ~~5. Approximately six months after I arrived in [REDACTED] while traveling with another volunteer in another town in my region, I was abducted by four men at gunpoint, taken to an abandoned airfield, and gang raped.~~
6. At that time, there was no way to contact anyone remotely, so after the assault, my friend and I boarded a bus and traveled several hours to [REDACTED]. When we arrived, the Peace Corps nurse responded quickly and compassionately, as did the Country Director and Deputy Director. I was treated at the Peace Corps office and fairly quickly medically evacuated to the U.S. Once there, I received examinations and prophylactic measures to prevent pregnancy and STDs, and I also recall receiving counseling and testing for HIV. While temporarily in Washington, DC, the Peace Corps provided me and my family with some counseling and information regarding workers' compensation. I was told that I would be covered for the rest of my life for any medical care and therapy I needed. While the medical care I received both in-country and stateside was compassionate and responsive, I had the impression that the staff in [REDACTED] was taken by surprise by the incident and may not have had adequate preparation or training. After approximately a week in the U.S., I decided to

return to [REDACTED] in order to pursue the matter legally. I was informed that if I did not return, there would be no real criminal investigation or prosecution.

7. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps through the medical officer.
8. The Peace Corps responded by notifying local police and, at some point, by consulting with Embassy officials. Again, the response by individuals in [REDACTED] was extraordinarily compassionate, caring, and in good faith, but I do not believe they had sufficient resources to respond to my situation.
9. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. At some point, either before I was med-evaced or after my return, I was interviewed by local police. I was also examined by a doctor in Honduras in order to collect evidence. Only after my examination was I informed that the information I provided was not confidential, and that the examination report would be available to the police and the defendants, if the suspects were ever apprehended.
10. The local Peace Corps staff did what they could to support me in prosecuting my attackers. Despite the lack of resources or coordination from the U.S., in-country staff creatively used whatever they could to assist me, going so far as to borrow the Ambassador's bullet-proof van to transport me to the region where I had been attacked to identify suspects (there were threats on my life after the incident was publicized) and obtaining advice from local counsel. Nonetheless, because rape was not considered a serious crime, and was generally dealt with privately, outside the courts, I was to a large degree on my own in pursuing the prosecution. Three of the four men were ultimately apprehended. Two were sentenced to terms of a few years each. The third was a juvenile, and I was ~~required to meet with the judge and sit right next to my attacker to discuss the~~ disposition of his case. The judge asked if I would consent to an eight-month term. I asked what the alternatives were, and she indicated that it was a good deal and I should accept it. I did what she instructed.
11. One thing that Peace Corps did not provide that I wish they had was a trained support person to accompany me to medical appointments and encounters with law enforcement and the judicial system. I also wish there had been some legal support from the U.S...
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me, other than to suggest I not talk about it. Although most of my fellow volunteers were sympathetic, some were not, and there was some vicious gossip and unkind statements made. In-country staff did their best to deal with these incidents, but there was no systematic response.
13. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps. Because there had been threats against me, I could not return to my original assigned region to complete my service. The Peace Corps offered me the option of beginning again

at the two-year mark in a different country or medically separating from service. I chose the latter.

14. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps did not contact me at all in an official capacity. After my return, one concerned and compassionate individual from the Inspector General's Office took it upon himself to stay in touch with me and keep me posted about the case and continuing attempts to apprehend the fourth attacker, who had managed to enter the U.S. illegally. He was never apprehended. I also attempted to organize other volunteers who had gone through similar experiences and recommend some changes to Peace Corps policy and practice in this area. Although I did have an informal meeting with the Peace Corps Director, she did not follow up with me nor did anyone take steps to implement any of our recommendations.
15. After I returned to the U.S., I applied for and was approved for workers' compensation benefits, although recently the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs has attempted, repeatedly, to end those benefits. I had no information regarding a Peace Corps ombudsman for such issues, and had to navigate the process on my own.
16. I wish the Peace Corps had recognized the pervasive violence against women in the country where I served and taken measures to deal with it other than simply urging us to be "culturally sensitive." I wish that Peace Corps had been better prepared to deal with what happened to me, and I wish there had been some sort of follow-up available when I returned.
17. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask that it pay attention to this issue, which is still a problem twenty years later, and let those of us who ~~have experienced sexual assault as volunteers help them to put a preparation and response structure in place.~~

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 3/15/11

Signed: [REDACTED]

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

March 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED]. I graduated from [REDACTED] and a keen interest in working on sustainable solutions to world food issues. My intent through my college years was to join the Peace Corps, procure a graduate degree after that related to international development, and then return to development work overseas.

The month after college graduation, [REDACTED] I was headed for [REDACTED] as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I was thrilled to finally embark on a professional path in international development work. I was placed in the training village, in a compound with a host family.

Unfortunately, a few weeks after my arrival [REDACTED] national broke into my house in the midst of a severe thunderstorm and proceeded to sexually assault me at knifepoint. While there was a lock on my door, the [REDACTED] man had broken in and entered. I had never experienced such victimization before. My immediate instinct was to not fight back, as I felt that fighting back would further endanger my life. I was sexually assaulted repeatedly for more approximately three hours at knifepoint. Just before he left, the assailant told me that if I told anyone about what had happened, he would come back and kill me.

The assailant left shortly before the sun rose. When daylight broke, I went to the training center to tell the Peace Corps nurse, who was visiting that day, what had happened. A whirlwind of activities ensued, including accompaniment to the local police station to report the incident; a gynecological exam; and being asked to look at a line-up of five men (face-to-face, not behind a mirror) whom the village Chief had rounded up so I could try to identify the suspect.

Unfortunately, I could not shake the concern that the assailant would return to attack me for disclosing the rape. Two weeks after the incident, I went on "Medevac" through the Peace Corps to Washington DC. It was during that time that I realized I could not return to [REDACTED] and expect to be productive. I appreciated the support that Peace Corps in [REDACTED] and in Washington DC provided at that time. Peace Corps provided me with a voucher to attend up to six months of counseling related to the sexual assault incident.

I took some time in the U.S. to recover from my experience and reconsidered the Peace Corps. I realized I did not want to forego the experience solely because of one individual's act of violence toward me. I re-applied and was accepted to Peace Corps in [REDACTED] approximately 15 months after my return from [REDACTED].

While I successfully completed my two-year assignment with the Peace Corps [REDACTED], it was not without excessive concern for my (and other women's) safety. During my tenure in [REDACTED] two other Peace Corps Volunteers were sexually assaulted (one in the training village by two

nationals, and one at her post by a national). Another Peace Corps Volunteer was attempted sexually assaulted. The sexual assault of the woman in the training village particularly touched me, since I had had a similar experience. I let the Peace Corps doctor in [REDACTED] know that I was willing to talk with and support this woman. I did not hear back from her – until my close-of-service trip in [REDACTED]. I met up with her by chance. It came to light that the Peace Corps doctor had never let her know about my offer to talk with and support her. We both agreed it would have been incredibly helpful to talk; instead, we remained isolated in our experiences during our tenure in [REDACTED].

I did not receive training while in Peace Corps related to violence against women or sexual assault prevention. I should also state I do not believe it is incumbent upon the potential victim of sexual assault to “prevent” such an attack. Prevention efforts must be coordinated among a number of individuals/agencies (see recommendations below).

When I was in [REDACTED], I was grateful for all that the Peace Corps staff had done for me. When I was in [REDACTED] my experience was quite different. There was a sense that the issue of sexual assault was being “swept under the carpet” – and I was not alone with that concern. I repeatedly shared with the Peace Corps medical staff that I believed Peace Corps Volunteers should be better apprised during training, at in-services, and when assaults occurred. Instead, there was silence around the issue. At the close of my service, I wrote a letter to the country director, my associate Peace Corps director, and the medical staff sharing my concern that sexual assault issues were not being addressed as they could or should be.

While I did not end up pursuing a professional career in international development, I did end up in a career which has allowed me to work with community partners, survivors, and national experts on mitigating the effects of sexual assault in my community. I serve as [REDACTED] with a domestic and sexual violence intervention organization serving a tri-county region in [REDACTED]. My expertise, based on my experiences in Peace Corps and my chosen career path, leads me to implore Peace Corps to focus on the following regarding violence against women and sexual assault response:

- Do not blame the victim or focus on her actions when considering how sexual assault can be prevented. Sexual assault is prevented when the perpetrator does not assault his victim. While I do not consider it faulty reasoning to suggest people employ safe strategies such as traveling in pairs or groups, it is critical we do not place blame on the victim if she did not employ this strategy. Perpetrators become emboldened, invisible, and frankly, invincible when we point fingers at the victim for sexual crimes.
- Work closely with local counterparts to develop a coordinated response to sexual assault, or any harassment toward Peace Corps Volunteers. Be sure you know the cultural norms in a given community and can gain buy-in from counterparts to commit to ensuring proper protections for Volunteers.
- If cultural norms do not bode well for women’s safety, consider whether you should be placing a woman alone at a site. Placement in pairs, while potentially more costly, can prevent assault and perhaps save a life.

- If not already in place, consider developing teams in each country that include at least one Peace Corps Volunteer, local counterpart and Peace Corps administrator to provide a coordinated effort in prevention and intervention around any acts of violence.

The Peace Corps has done far too much good in the world to continue to be tarnished by suggestions of poor response to violence against women. It would be my privilege to help with building a more unified, coordinated response to violence against women in the Peace Corps. If I can help, please ask!

Sincerely,



PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

My name may not be used without prior permission from me.

1. My name is [REDACTED], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED], from February 1987 until November 1988.
2. I was 28 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
3. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to serve my country in a peaceful manner. Was inspired by the JFK speech, "...ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." Wanted to help others.
4. We were trained on language development, cultural assimilation and sensitivity, medical/ health concerns and prevention, drug usage and general safety awareness. I do not remember any discussion about sexual assault.
5. Twenty-one months after I arrived in [REDACTED] I was raped. A man I knew, and considered a friend, came to my house some time after 12 AM knocking at my door. He asked to come in. I let him in, a decision I'll regret for the rest of my life. He proceeded to rape me. While he did this a truck full of his friends cheered him on from outside. I was frightened and in shock, afraid that when he finished his friends would do the same. I fought back, struggled with him as much as I could, and begged him to stop. He was drunk and did not listen. He continued despite my pleas. He had me on the ground and pinning my shoulders down so that I could not move. I remember not believing this was happening to me. I remember at one point feeling apart from myself, looking down, watching him rape me. I felt sick, the need to vomit, wanted to get him off me and out of my place. When he finally left I did not know what to do with myself. I showered for what seemed like hours was so numb I am not sure to this day if the water was hot or cold.

I was pet sitting a parrot for a volunteer who was in my town. I put that bird on my shoulder and walked a mile into town. I was in a daze; I had no words for the rape. I was in disbelief as I walked into town. I remember feeling if this bird could talk he could be a witness. I went to see if the volunteer had left town yet. I found her with one of the Country Trainers and was not able to tell her what happened. I was caught in this web of self-blame and confusion, worried if I told someone they would blame me somehow. I remembered meeting a new volunteer in my city who told us she was a rape counselor before coming to the Peace Corps. I went to our mailbox and left a note for her. I was unsure if what had happened to me was rape since I had let him in. She confirmed for me that in fact it was rape, talked to me for a long time and helped me through a very dark time in my life.

6. After the assault, I spoke with a fellow volunteer. It was a holiday weekend so I knew getting to [REDACTED] and reaching the Peace Corps office would be difficult. I reported the incident to the Peace Corps by telephone. I found my in country boss and told her what happened, she helped me to call the Peace Corps Office.
7. The Peace Corps responded by sending the Country Director of Special Education to my site to collect me and bring me to [REDACTED] Peace Corps headquarters.
8. I was taken immediately to the Peace Corps Medical Staff who lined up doctors visits to attend to the injuries. I remember one of the medical staff telling me I would feel better if I forgave the man who raped me. While I understand she was trying to be helpful, it was not.
9. The Peace Corps did not take action to document that a crime had been committed against me.
10. The Peace Corps did however ask me if I wanted to press charges. I declined, as I just wanted to leave the country as fast as possible and get to somewhere where I felt safe. I was in no position to make any decisions at that point.
11. The Peace Corps did send me to a doctor who I remember to be very gentle and sympathetic. They asked me make decisions about staying or leaving country. I contacted my parents to let them know what had happened they were very concerned. I remember my Dad telling me later that he was disappointed in the lack of information and support they were able to give them at the time. I wish the Peace Corps could have helped them more. I wish the Peace Corps could have had someone on staff that could have helped me with what had happened other than the religious nurse who wanted me to forgive my rapist.
12. Peace Corps did not give me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. All of a sudden I was leaving and had little time to let folks know what had happened. It made it very awkward in future dealings with fellow volunteers. I understand they had questions and were left to rely on rumor or misinformation about what had happened. I do understand the difficult position of protecting privacy that the Peace Corps was/is put in however it would have been helpful for some of my friends to know and be available to support me before I left country. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
13. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps sent me to a doctor and therapist in Washington, DC. I was assigned to a nurse who was very helpful (I believe his name was [REDACTED]) He was instrumental in getting me hooked up with a therapist, trying to help me understand the financial constraints I was under in getting assistance (medical and therapeutic) as well as helping me navigating myself at a time when I was lost and very compromised. I had family near by so was able to stay with them during the process. I remember not being able to sleep or be in confined spaces like elevators or stairwells. I was afraid

and in a bit of a fog or daze. After a few weeks in therapy, I was introduced to a few other women who were in DC for the very same reason I was there. I was shocked until I learned about the prevalence of rapes in the Peace Corps. Both my therapist at the time and now as well as my doctor at the time said that many women come through their offices in the same predicament. One of the women I met was from the same country I was assigned, [REDACTED]. We were shocked that there were so many of us. We were angry that we had not been trained or even warned that this could happen, we felt unprepared as volunteer and even more unprepared to pick up the pieces of our lives. We requested that Peace Corps allow us to make a training video for subsequent volunteers. Peace Corps set it up and assisted us in making a video where we shared our experiences and warned volunteers about what could happen. Am not sure if Peace Corps ever used the tape or not. We made it very clear we were concerned about the lack of information before we went to our sites and how we thought some sort of training about sexual assault was necessary to fold into the training.

14. The Peace Corps hooked me up with a doctor who checked me out to see if I was medically okay. I was to find my own follow up after the initial appointment. The therapeutic intervention happened for a while but was soon compromised by financial limits. Going through the Peace Corps to receive benefits was difficult. It felt like you were being traumatized all over again. Unless you were up for a fight, it was very difficult to navigate at the time. After the initial stint with my therapist I returned to the Peace Corps after a few years for assistance when I heard the man who raped me was coming to the United States. I was given a few sessions to help me cope but it was insufficient and had to go through an awful process to be deemed eligible to receive supplemental services. I had to interview with a Psychiatrist who made some very inappropriate statements that were not only unprofessional but also not therapeutic or helpful to my situation. I complained to the Peace Corps and requested they take them off their referral list. I have had subsequent therapy that I pay for myself in order to not deal with Peace Corps and its bureaucracy. Recently, almost 20 years later I started having flash backs and panic attacks. I discovered that because I did not tend to my rape and all that goes with it, properly the first time around they remained with me all this time. I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This was almost as frightening as the rape itself. I thought I was losing my mind.
15. I wish the Peace Corps had been more understanding about rape victims and what they need immediately after the rape and subsequently. I wish Peace Corps had been more supportive rather than challenged by my need for services to heal. It felt as though Peace Corps had raped me all over again. All I wanted was to feel better, to work this through and to do whatever I could to prevent it from happening to anyone else or at least raise some awareness. I knew my Omnibus had no idea all this was going on stateside. I wish Peace Corps could understand that after you have been raped it stays with you and supplemental support is often needed. I wish the Peace Corps could have been as interested in me, one of their own, as they were in their efforts to help other countries.

16. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask for better training and support to its volunteers who are injured during their duty as Peace Corps volunteers. Being raped has been a burden that replaced the experience I had hoped for while serving my country. I joined Peace Corps in response to JFK's speech "ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." I wanted to help others, help countries develop into what I knew was possible after living in the United States. I wanted to help the deaf children I was working with learn to communicate better. Turns out these goals are the same for what I had hoped for the Peace Corps, better communication skills. Unfortunately, I was robbed of that full experience, both in country and with Peace Corps. I came home with a bigger parasite than anyone could possibly imagine. There was no medicine or attention given for this parasite, it stays with me today and will be there for the rest of my life. When I joined the Peace Corps I imagined myself digging ditches and changing others lives. I didn't dig ditches. I hoped I helped others and I know my life will never be the same as it was before I was raped.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 23, 2011

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

My name is [REDACTED], and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in [REDACTED] from September 1984 until March 1985.

1. I was 22 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.
2. I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to help make our world a better place for all. I wanted all people to have their basic needs met.
3. Before I was placed in [REDACTED] the Peace Corps provided us with a list of obscene phrases that would not be acceptable to say. They did not provide us any sexual assault safety training.
4. Three months after I arrived in [REDACTED] I was raped by my Program Director, a [REDACTED] native. This man had repeatedly told female volunteers that we would have to have sex with him to get our living supplement check. Because of this, I went with a male volunteer to pick up the checks. However, in December 1984, there was a Peace Corps party which involved excessive drinking by most attendees. I was taken back to my hotel room in [REDACTED] by my Program Director who proceeded to undo my pants and rape me while I was physically incapable of stopping him.
5. The next morning, after the assault, I went to our medical officer to try to get help, but he told me he was disgusted with all the volunteers and that if something bad happened to us, it was our own fault. I felt like I had no one else to seek help from so I went back to my village. Several weeks later, I began to suspect that I had become pregnant as a result of the rape.
6. I then reported the incident to the Peace Corps by going back to [REDACTED] and talking to the Peace Corps nurse. She gave me a pregnancy test and confirmed my fears. When she reported the information to the medical officer, he apologized for not helping me before.
7. The Peace Corps responded by telling me that I now had to decide immediately if I was going to terminate the pregnancy or terminate Peace Corps service.
8. The Peace Corps did take action to document that a crime had been committed against me. The medical director reported the incident to our Country Director and to Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. I was instructed to fly to Honolulu, HI for termination of the pregnancy. No funding was made available to do this procedure, so I contacted my best friend's parents for assistance. Her parents sent me funding for the procedure. When I returned to country, I was told that I would have to confront my attacker in the presence of the medical

director in order to have my request for a different supervisor honored. This was extremely traumatic. In addition, the new supervisor made it clear that he did not like having me assigned to him.

9. The Peace Corps did not provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. I was told that unless I had been a virgin when I was attacked, that the [REDACTED] courts would not consider that a rape had occurred.
10. The Peace Corps did not take further action to protect me from the Program Director who raped me. Approximately one month after I returned to my village, he showed up even though he was not my director. I was scared and left my village to stay with a friend for a few days. When I returned to my village a [REDACTED] government official from the district tried to take me to his home for "fun like you had with your Peace Corps friend". I escaped by running into a tea house.
11. Less than two weeks later, I was pulled into the room of a [REDACTED] government counterpart at the complex where I lived and worked. He repeatedly tried to convince me to have sex with him because my "Peace Corps friend" who had come to my village had told him how much fun I was. I refused and tried to get away, but he had a machete on his table and knocked my glasses off. He repeatedly pounded my head against the wall and choked me. I was afraid of dying and decided to stop fighting. He handed me a used, torn condom and demanded that I put it on him. When he began raping me, I couldn't bear it and began fighting again. He told me that I might as well enjoy it because I would never leave my village alive. Throughout the night, he raped me repeatedly. During one of my struggles to get away from him, I found my glasses and was then able to think about escape. The next time he came to rape me, I elbowed him hard in the solar plexus and escaped to my room. I locked myself in and stayed there until both he and his servant had been called away. I then grabbed my bicycle and rode, ran, and waded my way to [REDACTED]. I found a Peace Corps neighbor who was willing to fly with me to [REDACTED].
12. I reported the incident to our medical officer who stated that he was too frustrated that I would get into a dangerous situation to deal with me. He sent in an American doctor from the area to examine me. The doctor was kind, talked with me, and treated me.
13. The medical officer reported the incident to Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. I was told that I was being sent to Washington, D.C. for counseling.
14. Peace Corps gave me guidance as to what to tell others about what happened to me. They indicated that if others asked me what had happened, I should tell them that I was med-evaced for treatment of my dysentery. I was told that this would protect my privacy.

15. I was not able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.
16. Once I returned to the United States, the Peace Corps placed me in a hotel room with other Peace Corps volunteers who had been raped. I was told to report to a counselor in the area for evaluation. This counselor repeatedly asked me what I had learned from my experience of being raped. She was judgmental and indicated that it was my fault for ending up in dangerous situations. She suggested that I was a drug-addict, was irresponsible, and had a personality disorder. She (and the Peace Corps psychiatrist who wrote up my case file) stated that getting lost and being late for an appointment when I had been back in the U.S. less than a day was evidence of my inability to be responsible, that calling my friend's parents at 3 a.m. for help was a clear indication that I had a drug problem, and that my failure to benefit from the rapes was a sign of my personality disorder.
17. The Peace Corps did not take further action to protect me from the Program Director who raped me. Instead, the Program Director who had raped me was assigned to collect my belongings and mail them to me. They were mislabeled and did not reach me for two-and-one-half years. Meanwhile, my rapist had access to all of my personal information including my home address.
18. The Peace Corps regional director and legal office in Washington, D.C. did attempt to provide me with a meaningful opportunity to prosecute my attacker. The regional director for Asia flew to [REDACTED] and obtained the resignation of my Program Director who raped me. After examining all possible avenues, the regional director and legal office stated that there was no additional recourse available for prosecuting the two men who raped me.
19. The Peace Corps took responsibility for helping me obtain the benefits I needed to recover. I was sent to a worker's compensation claims representative to start a case file. I asked for my ticket to send me to my friend's parents who had offered me a place to stay and recover. However, I was told that my ticket had to take me back from where my service originated. I received the additional medical care that I needed but had to struggle for months to get the bills paid. In the end, I was required to pay 20% of my bills with the explanation that the government only paid 80% of bills through worker's compensation.
20. I wish the Peace Corps had been open about the statistics regarding rape of Peace Corps volunteers. I would have still joined, but I would have been aware of the dangers. I wish that Peace Corps had used counselors who treated rape victims with respect instead of blaming me for naively wandering into a dangerous situation and shaming me by telling me that I failed to benefit from the rapes. Twenty-five years later that phrase still hurts.
21. If I could ask the Peace Corps for one thing, I would ask for better sexual assault prevention and response training for volunteers and for volunteers who are assaulted to be treated with respect instead of blaming them for the assault.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: March 5, 2011

Signed: [REDACTED]

Signed electronically March 5, 2011

Handwritten signature available upon request

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT

I, [Redacted], state under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

My name is [Redacted] and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in the [Redacted] from Sept. 1975 until Oct. 1977.

I was 23 years old when I joined the Peace Corps.

I chose to join the Peace Corps because I wanted to help.

Before I was placed in the [Redacted] the Peace Corps provided no information whatsoever on sexual assault.

I don't remember how long it was after I arrived in the [Redacted] but it was maybe half way through my tour, the father of the family I was living with (the husband of my co-worker) said he would kill the whole family (incl. the 5 kids & the mom) if I didn't have sex with him. I let him rape me. This happened twice. There was nothing I could do but pretend it didn't happen. There was *no one* to talk to. We had no way of communicating back then. There were no phones. I was totally isolated. I never told a soul. Never. Ever.

I was able to complete my assignment with the Peace Corps.

I wish the Peace Corps had given me some training or at least a head's up before I went over there. I had no idea I might be sexually assaulted.

I, [Redacted] declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: April 2, 2011

Signed: /s/ [Redacted]